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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Bank staff chip in for gift box scheme

Lions' charity shop off to roaring start

RENEWED CALL TO DEMOLISH FORMER COLLEGE BUILDINGS

Report by **Henry James**

Councillor says site 'resembles a war zone'

A RENEWED call has been made to demolish the former West Lancashire College buildings on Yewdale which have lain derelict for years and have been described as resembling a "war zone."

The plea has come from Skelmersdale North Councillor Neil Furey who says the site is a "terrible eyesore for the town."

The former Westbank campus site, which is in the centre of the town, has been repeatedly vandalised since its closure seven years ago.

The site and buildings are insecure and have become an easy target for vandals to enter to smash windows and cause other damage.

The buildings formerly housed the West Lancashire College until it moved to be its present, purpose-built £42.8m campus at College Way in 2011.

Since then the former college buildings have been vandalised on numerous occasions.

In the most recent incident the site was the scene of a fire which is being treated as a suspected arson.

Fire crews from Skelmersdale, Ormskirk and three appliances from Greater Manchester attended the incident in the early hours of Thursday, November 1.

The former Glenburn Sports College, which was also situated on Yewdale, was demolished last year to make way for Lancashire County Council's proposed Skelmersdale Rail Link Project.

The school closed in July 2016 and vandals had also been targeting those buildings until the decision was taken to demolish them.

Now Councillor Furey is calling for the former West Lancashire College buildings to be similarly removed.

He told the Champion: "Following further vandalism and a fire I have again visited the former Westbank Campus. The site is an utter disgrace and resembles a war zone with vandals being able to attack the building at will.

One of the former college buildings which Councillor Neil Furey claims are "an eyesore for the town."

"As ward councillor for the area I'm shocked to see the state of this site which remains a terrible eyesore for the town.

"This cannot continue and I will be writing to the site owner, the NCG Group, to express my concerns.

"In the meantime I will be calling for the site to be made more secure and that an urgent resolution is sought to demolish these buildings."

West Lancashire College has been contacted for comment.

Hair-raising trio... John Medlicott, son John junior and pal Andy Allsop.

Cancer battler John 'braves the shave' to raise four-figure sum for Macmillan

A RETIRED trucker from Skelmersdale, diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer, has 'braved the shave' with his son and a family friend to raise more than £1,400 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

John Medlicott was joined by his son, also called John, and pal Andy Allsop, for the hair-raising fundraiser staged at the Tawd Vale Inn in Berry.

Seventy-four-year-old John senior, who spent 48 years on the road, was diagnosed with incurable prostate cancer two years ago but was determined to raise awareness and funds for his local Macmillan Support Team at the Information and Support Centre in Skelmersdale.

He said: "Since my diagnosis the support that I have received from my local Macmillan support team has been fantastic so I wanted to try and give something back.

"I began this campaign with a target of raising £300 but we sailed passed that amount within the first six days!

"We then upped the target to £500, which was also smashed and we are now well on the way to achieving our combined goal of £1,400.

"We decided to Brave the Shave for Macmillan as we really appreciate all the help and support they've given, not just to me, but to anyone who is affected by cancer."

'Accidents will happen'

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Date set for annual baby and child remembrance service at hospital

THE annual baby and child memorial service at Ormskirk Hospital will take place this year on Wednesday, December 5.

All who have experienced loss, whether recently or in the past are invited and everyone is welcome to attend.

The non-denominational service, now in its fifth year, lasts approximately 20 minutes and involves carols, Christmas music and readings. Music will be provided by the Salvation Army Band.

Refreshments will be provided from 6pm and the service begins at 6.30pm, in the Baby and Child Remembrance Garden at the hospital.

There will be an opportunity to record names of loved ones on a Christmas bauble, and place these on a Christmas tree during the service.

Afterwards visitors will be able to take the bauble home to hang on their own Christmas tree.

A staff member will also be making personal candles for families to take home as a keepsake.

Hospital chaplain, Martin Abrams, who will be leading the service, said: "This is the fifth year that the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust has offered support in this way, to families remembering lost loved ones at Christmas.

Rev Martin Abrams who will be leading the baby and child remembrance service.

Supportive

"The run-up to Christmas can be a fun exciting time, but for many it can heighten a sense of loss, grief and isolation. We hope that this short, informal service will be supportive to anyone who has lost a baby or child, not just recently but anytime in the past.

"We know many people appreciate coming every year and some many years after a loss. Anyone who would find the service comforting is welcome."

For more information contact Martin or Rev Jan Fraser on 01704 704639 or email soh-tr.chaplains@nhs.net.

During December there will also be an opportunity for people to record the name of a loved one - of any age - on the trees of remembrance in the prayer rooms of both Ormskirk Hospital and Southport and Formby District General Hospital.

The hospital trust started using trees of remembrance four years ago. In 2017 approximately 200 names were registered across the two sites.

Artists' work on show at village lights switch-on

LOCAL artists will be holding an exhibition of their work at Westhead's Christmas lights switch-on.

The Festive Lights and Arts Afternoon will be held at Westhead Village Hall between 2 and 5pm on Saturday, November 24.

Among other attractions on the day will be stalls selling crafts and candles, a raffle, tombola and games.

Refreshments will also be available including tea, coffee, mulled wine, cakes and mince pies.

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Big-hearted Co-op Bank staff help fill 90 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child

BIG-hearted staff at the Co-op Bank's Delf House HQ in Skelmersdale have once again been 'doing their bit' to help others less fortunate than themselves.

Workers at the office in Southway have been busy organising gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, which ams to brighten up the lives underprivileged children across the world.

Bev Hayman from the bank said: "A big thank-you to all colleagues at the Co-Operative Bank across all sites who have donated toiletries, toys, sweets and money to fill more than 90 shoeboxes.

"These have been collected by Operation Christmas Child volunteers and sent to children in countries far away and less fortunate than us, in time for Christmas.

"Some colleagues also donated online to fill shoeboxes that they can trace to see which country they have gone to.

"The children who receive these boxes are so happy to a get a shoebox with lots of toiletries and gifts inside as some have never even had a present before.

"When you see the videos of the children opening their shoe boxes and their happy smiling faces it shows what a difference we have made together."

Pictured: Tracy Berry (right) of Operation Christmas Child called at Skelmersdale's Co-op Bank HQ to collect the gift boxes. Helping her to load up are Co-op charity co-ordinator Bev Hayman (centre) along with Julie Forshaw, Phil Johnston and Gareth Peet.

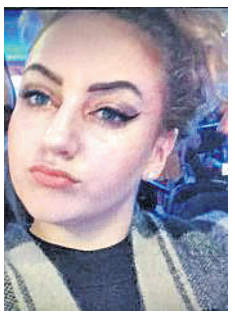
Concerns grow for missing teenager

POLICE are appealing for information on the whereabouts of a teenager missing from her home Skelmersdale.

Jasmine Dunnett, 15, was last seen at an address in Tarlswood in the town at about 5.10pm on November 13.

She is described white, with shoulder-length, dark-brown hair and was wearing black leggings, a black coat with a fur trim and white trainers.

A police spokesman said: "We are growing increasingly concerned for Jasmine as she hasn't been seen for several days now. I would urge anyone who has any information about where she could be to get in touch. I would also ask Jasmine herself to contact us if she sees this appeal."



Missing teenager Jasmine Dunnett

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 quoting log number 1320 of November 13.

Hotter chief executive named as a 'Face of a Vibrant Economy'

Report by **Henry James**

SARA Prowse, the chief executive of Skelmersdale-based award-winning footwear company Hotter Shoes, has been named as one of the country's most inspirational businesspeople by global accountancy and consultancy giants, Grant Thornton.

She has been identified by the company as one of UK's Faces of a Vibrant Economy, a celebration of leaders who inspire by example and show how better business can be done.

As part of Grant Thornton's commitment to shaping a vibrant economy in the UK, each year the firm identifies and brings together 100 progressive leaders across private, public and third sectors that demonstrate excellence in two or more of the following areas:

Growth – fostering a culture of growth, job creation and leading their organisation into new markets.

Innovation - solving problems, leaders whose products or services are disrupting the sector and challenging the status quo.

Purpose – investing in their workforce, connecting financial profit to social purpose and contributing to the wider community.

Sara Prowse commented: "It is an honour to be part of such an inspiring group of people who are committed to developing an economy that enables people, organisations and communities to flourish.

Sara Prowse, chief executive of Hotter Shoes.

"We've been the UK's biggest shoemaker since 2010 with 40% of total shoes made in the UK today manufactured in our factory in Skelmersdale. We work hard at Hotter to engage and develop our staff, we have a keen eye on the future of our business and we understand our success firmly rests with investment in our people and fostering a culture of growth."

Sacha Romanovitch, chief executive at Grant Thornton UK LLP, said: "At Grant Thornton, we know that doing well by doing good makes business sense and believe that leaders embracing this ethos deserve to be championed.

Positive

"That's why we launched the Faces campaign - to celebrate individuals who exemplify the Vibrant Economy movement, which aims to shape an environment where people, organisations and communities thrive.

"Our 'Faces' share the same commitment to make a positive impact.

"By celebrating these remarkable leaders, we recognise their role in developing a more purposeful and innovative business environment.

"They show us how business can be done through 'human' leadership which nurtures talent.

"They provide examples to inspire other business leaders and the next generation to shape a Vibrant Economy.

"They demonstrate that profits with purpose lead to sustainable business, and show us that it's not only possible, but also necessary, to do well by doing good."

Councillor heads drive to set up new Shared Reading group in town

NATIONAL charity, The Reader, is bringing people together and books to life in Skelmersdale with the aim that more residents have the chance to experience literature's life-supporting benefits.

A group of volunteers is being set up, led by Birch Green Councillor Claire Cooper, to run weekly Shared Reading groups in Skelmersdale library and community centres in the area.

And they are calling for new members to come along and get involved.

Shared Reading brings novels, poems and plays to life through live reading aloud and group discussion. Thousands of people from all walks of life come together each week to connect, reflect, and discover great literature.

Across the country, adult groups regularly take place in many different venues. Groups are free to attend and open to all adults regardless of age, ability or background.

Linked

Cllr. Cooper believes that more people and communities in Skelmersdale could benefit from Shared Reading to combat loneliness in particular.

Three-quarters of GPs surveyed have said they are seeing between one and five people a day suffering with loneliness, which is linked to a range of damaging health impacts like heart disease, strokes and Alzheimer's disease. Around 200,000 older people have not had a conversation with a friend or relative in more than a month.

Councillor Claire Cooper.

Cllr. Cooper said: "We want to make the Shared Reading movement as accessible as possible so that there are groups in communities everywhere. We're working to make this happen here in Skelmersdale by engaging with individuals and community groups. We're also actively looking for more Reader Leaders to work with us across the town."

To find out more about Shared Reading or volunteering opportunities with The Reader in Skelmersdale, contact Claire on claire4birch-green@gmail.com.

Shared Reading comes to Skelmersdale library, Southway on Monday, November 26 at 1.30pm.

Lions' new charity 'den' gets off to a roaring start!

TAWD Vale Lions Club have announced the successful opening of their new 'Lions Den' charity shop.

The new location is on the first floor of the Concourse, opposite the Halifax Bank.

Queues formed outside the new shop more than an hour before opening at 10am on Saturday, with customers diving under the shutter before it could be fully raised!

Club president, Thelma Jones, was busy in the shop last Saturday with fellow club members and volunteers from the 55th Ormskirk Scouts and West Lancashire Police Cadets.

She said: "The number of customers on our first day of opening took us by surprise. We really appreciated the help that we had to keep the shelves stocked and the shop tidy.

"We expect to see many of our past customers and lots of new faces at the Den during the run-up to Christmas.

"The opening hours will be from 10am until 2pm every Saturday, with extra hours planned for Fridays.

"We expect to have good stocks of keenly-priced Christmas goods, as well as clothing, bric-a-brac, toys and books. We are delighted with the new location and want to say a big thank-you to the Concourse management team for the support that they have given. Thanks also to Motion Graphics Design for the new banners."

All the money raised at the shop will be used to give support to local people in need, local charities and Lions Clubs International charity projects chosen by the club.

Donations of good-quality used goods will be welcomed at the shop or for larger items ring Chris on 01257 462283 to arrange collection.

Lions Club members and helpers at their new den.

Students warned to beware of tax refund scammers

UNIVERSITY students are being warned to beware of scammers offering bogus tax refunds in an effort to steal their money and personal details.

Officials at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have revealed that fraudsters are using seemingly legitimate university email addresses (e.g. @uc.ac.uk) in order to avoid detection.

And the Government has issued advice to students to help avoid being caught out. In particular they are urged to beware of phishing - whereby fraudsters try to gain personal information, such as log-in details, passwords, and credit card details, via email,text or voice message, by pretending to be from the target's bank or other organisations, such as HMRC.

Director of Action Fraud, Pauline Smith, commented: "Devious fraudsters will try every trick in the book to convince victims to hand over their personal information, often with devastating consequences. It is vital that students spot the signs of fraudulent emails to avoid falling victim by following HMRC's advice."

The HMRC advises that suspicious emails should be forwarded to phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk and texts to 60599. Anyone who suffers financial loss as a result of phishing can contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use its online fraud reporting tool.

A spokesperson for Edge Hill University said: "We have not been made aware of any issues regarding our students, however they have been warned about this scam."

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County council looking to recruit school governors

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council is looking to recruit people from diverse backgrounds and with a wide range of experience to become school governors.

School governors are volunteers who support the effective running of schools across the county. They work together with the headteacher of the school and the local authority to improve outcomes for all pupils and education in local schools. Their role is fundamental in determining the success of a school.

Governors are usually appointed for a term of four years, although this may differ at individual schools.

Some of their responsibilities include:

- Planning for the school's long-term future.
- Setting the aims and objectives for the school.
- Setting the targets for achieving those aims and objectives.
- Monitoring the overall performance of the school.

Lancashire County Council is seeking volunteers from diverse backgrounds to become school governors.

- Allocating and monitoring budgets.
- Making sure that the school provides for all pupils including those with disabilities and special needs.
- Being a source of challenge and support for the headteacher.
- Appointing senior members of staff.

The role gives people the chance to use existing skills, and develop new ones. People from as wide a range of backgrounds as possible are invited to apply.

The only requirements are that people are aged 18 or over; keen to make a positive difference to children's education; able to work as part of a team; willing to attend regular meetings and read necessary papers; ready to learn and be open to new ideas and willing to put something into the local community.

No formal qualifications are required and full training and support will be given to make sure people are fully equipped to carry out the role successfully.

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, chair of Lancashire's Governors Panel, said: "Despite popular misconceptions, we want school governors from all walks of life. You don't even need to be a parent or to have worked in education.

"We are really interested in hearing from a broad range of people to gain from their wisdom and experience. We want our governors to reflect our communities and include representatives from as many backgrounds as possible.

"Becoming a governor is a great way to contribute to your local community and improve the lives of local children."

To find out more visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools or contact the Lancashire Governor Services Central Team on 01257 516147 or email governors.central@lancashire.gov.uk.

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Rosie Cooper questions effectiveness of current penalties in deterring knife crime

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper has quizzed the Justice Secretary, David Gauke, in Parliament on the effectiveness of the penalties for people found carrying a knife.

Currently anyone convicted of illegally carrying a knife can completely avoid a custodial sentence.

Following a recent spate of knife and violent crime in West Lancashire, the borough's MP said it would seem the current laws on carrying a knife do not do enough to discourage people from doing so.

And she commented that the Justice Secretary appeared to ignore the question suggesting there were other means of deterrence but failing to elaborate on what they were or whether he was satisfied that penalties were adequate or effective.

She said: "The police have assured me they have stepped up their efforts but stabbings are still occurring, even in broad daylight. I have asked the Justice Secretary about the minimum penalties for those convicted of carrying a knife and whether this is deterrence enough.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper speaking in Parliament.

"I will also be meeting with the Policing Minister Nick Hurd to discuss the increase in knife and violent crimes this year. Police must be appropriately resourced to investigate and tackle this hugely dangerous and serious issue.

Responsibility

"We all need to work together as residents also have a responsibility to report and surrender weapons that are coming into the town."

Responding to Ms Cooper, the Justice Secretary said: "As I have already set out, we are seeing more people going to prison and we are seeing the custodial sentence increasing for these offences following the change in the law.

"In terms of the question of deterrence, this is in part about sentencing and these are clearly serious offences but there are of course other factors when it comes to the deterrent effect that's not just about sentences and that we have to bear in mind as well."

Five homes in town still watching TV in black and white...

FIVE households in Skelmersdale are still watching television in black and white, according to new figures released by TV Licensing.

More than 50 years after the launch of colour transmissions, more than 7,000 black and white TV Licences are still in force across the UK.

Despite an increase in the use of smart televisions, as well as tablets and smart-phones to access TV content, a surprising number of households are spurning 21st Century technology in favour of nostalgic monochrome TV sets.

According to this year's figures, London leads the way with 1,768 black and white licences, followed by West Midlands with 431 and Greater Manchester with 390.

However, the number of black and white licences issued each year is steadily declining.

In 2000 there were 212,000 black and white TV Licences in force, but by 2003 that number had shrunk to 93,000 and by 2015, the number had dipped below 10,000.

Matthew Thompson, spokesperson for TV Licensing in the North of England, said: "Over half of the UK's TVs now connect to the internet1, so it's interesting that more than 7,000 households still choose to watch their favourite shows on a black and white telly.

"Whether you watch EastEnders, Strictly or Question Time in black and white on a 50-year-old TV set or in colour on a tablet, you need to be covered by a TV Licence to watch or record programmes as they are broadcast.

"You also need to be covered by a TV Licence to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer, on any device."

Nostalgia

Paul Coleman, associate curator of Broadcast and Television at the National Science and Media Museum, said: "It looks like we're seeing roughly a decrease of about 1,000 black and white TV licences per year in the UK at the moment, so the overall figure could drop below 1,000 within the next decade.

"Beyond that, I'm sure there will still be people who choose to watch a black and white television, maybe for nostalgia, or perhaps they like the style of the sets, which can look like pieces of furniture. Whatever their reasons, it's testament to the longevity of the technology used that it's still possible."

Pupils' singalong strikes a chord with care home residents

PUPILS from a local primary school helped to bridge the 'generation gap' when they went along to a neighbouring care home to sing Remembrance-themed songs.

The youngsters from Roby Mill CE Primary entertained residents at Cardinal Heenan House care home with favourites including We'll Meet Again.

They will be returing to the home in December to sing carols and it's hoped to make regular monthly visits next year.

Christine Edge from Cardinal Heenan House said: "The interaction between the children and our residents living with dementia was amazing. One resident said that it was lovely to see children so happy just like it was when she was teaching and another said they brought tears to her eyes."

Woodlands Primary help celebrate National School Meals Week

WOODLANDS Community Primary School in Skelmersdale hosted a National School Meals 'on the road' day as part of Lancashire County Council's celebrations of National School Meals Week.

It involved children taking part in various events and exercises along five themes of education, concentration, attainment, energy and nutrition.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We're involving the children in various activities to teach them about nutrition and the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet. The aim is to use fun to get the message across involving puzzles, characters and exercise."

Now in its 25th year, the initiative is run by the Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACA). National School Meals Week celebrates the importance of school meals, and of children being provided with a hot and nutritious lunch.

Cllr. Charles added: "School lunches are great these days, healthy and tasty, and planned to comply with nutritional standards. The week deserves to be a great success and I'm sure it will be. Our school meals and kitchen staff work so hard to produce nutritionally balanced meals that children will love.

"In particular, I hope that children who don't usually take school dinners will enjoy their lunch so much that they join the thousands who do. Increased uptake means more children are getting a great meal at lunchtime."

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Borough landmarks to be lit up to shed light on pancreatic cancer

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ORMSKIRK Clock Tower and the Lightcube in Skelmersdale are shining purple again this year to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer.

West Lancs Council has once again accepted a request for the structures to be lit up in the second half of November between dusk and dawn as part of Pancreatic Cancer Action's 'Turn it Purple' campaign.

Pancreatic Cancer Action aims to raise awareness and funds and to drive for earlier diagnosis and more effective treatments.

Every day, 27 men and women will be newly-diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The disease is the fifth deadliest cancer in the UK but is often misdiagnosed and patients go to see their GP 13 times on average before it is correctly identified.

Ormskirk Clock Tower and Skelmersdale's Lightcube will be lit with a purple light to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer.

Symptoms

This is a major contributory factor in low survival rates and just three per cent of people with the most common type of pancreatic cancer will survive beyond five years, according to a major study released by Pancreatic Cancer UK in June.

Early diagnosis increases five-year chance of survival from less than 7% to 30%. However, worryingly, in November 2016 Pancreatic Cancer UK found that 74 per cent of people in the UK could not name a single symptom of pancreatic cancer.

If you or a family member have one or more of the following symptoms, persistently then you should seek medical advice: mid-back pain; upper abdominal pain; pain on eating; indigestion; new onset diabetes; unexplained weight loss; fatigue; pale and smelly stools; jaundice; low mood or depression.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney, said: "The council is delighted to be taking part in Turn it Purple again this year. Ormskirk Clock Tower and the Lightcube in Skelmersdale are two of our borough's most distinctive landmarks and we hope lighting up these two structures will increase awareness of pancreatic cancer."

For more information about pancreatic cancer visit www.pancreaticcanceraction.org.

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Six-figure buy-out for electronics firm

SKELMERSDALE-based electronic tracking systems designer CoreRFID has completed a six-figure buy-out.

The deal provides an exit for the company's original investor, the Coalfields Enterprise Fund, managed by Mercia Fund Managers, and allows the management team to take full control of the business.

Situated in the West Lancs Investment Centre at White Moss Park, CoreRFID uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology to track everything from plant and vehicles to product deliveries and legal files.

The company serves an international client base including large corporates such as London Underground, ICL and BAE Systems and major supermarkets.

Mercia Fund Managers first backed the business at its launch in 2007 and has provided follow-on investment rounds to support its growth over the years.

CoreRFID's three-strong management team of managing director Munzi Ali, sales director Richard Harrison and chairman Terry Allen, bought out part of Mercia's stake in 2016 but have now acquired the remaining shares. The deal represents a 3.2 return on investment for Mercia.

Terry Allen said: "Setting up in business just before the credit crunch was not the most auspicious start and the first few years were tough. However, Mercia supported us every step of the way, not only by providing funding, but also practical advice and support.

"In recent years we have achieved a step change in the business and are now well placed to move forward as an independent. We already have a very strong presence in construction and manufacturing, and as advances in technology open up new opportunities in sectors such as professional services and entertainment, we are firmly focused on expansion."

Mercia investment director, Paul Taberner, added: "CoreRFID's experience shows that tech start-ups need patient, long-term, investors like Mercia which can support them at each stage of their development. As the business is now firmly established, we wish the team all the best in exploiting the considerable opportunities ahead."

Plans for 120 homes submitted

A 'RESERVED' matters planning application has been submitted to West Lancs Council to build 120 homes at land to the north of Cobbs Clough, Whalleys Road, Skelmersdale.

Trafford Housing Trust & L&Q Developments LLP are behind the proposals and a design and access statement has been put together by Baldwin Design Consultancy Limited on behalf of Laurus Homes.

The application is asking for reserved matters permission for the development of the site for residential purposes.

The homes would be built to the north of Skelmersdale in what is a mostly a residential area of the town.

The application is a joint venture between Trafford Housing Trust (THT) and L&Q Developments. THT manage almost 9,000 homes for social and affordable rent and also have homes for shared ownership and open market sale.

Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for a residential development of up to 630 homes together with associated open space and landscaping was granted in August 2014 on land at Whalleys, Whalleys Road. Outline permission is to be delivered in phases.

The proposed development of 120 homes would be made up of 82 open-market homes and 38 affordable units. The conclusion of the planning statement for the application says the proposals ensure "a high standard of living conditions for future residents" and the development is "accessible and pedestrian-friendly."

MP gets the 'inside story' on Skem company's drive to boost recycling rates

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper has been given a guided tour of a Skelmersdale company which is striving to boost the country's recycling rates.

The West Lancs MP visited the Viridor Recycling site in Gerrard Place, which is one of the UK's leading plastic reprocessing plants.

The facility reprocesses around 600 million plastic bottles and other consumer packaging each year, turning it into raw material to be reused in new plastic products.

It employs the latest technology to ensure materials that have previously been hard to recycle, such as black plastics, are not sent to landfill. This includes Artificial Intelligence (AI) robotics to sort material coming into the facility into different plastic types.

The plant currently focuses on two main types of plastic - PET (such as Coke bottles) and HPDE (including milk bottles) - but the company are looking to expand their operations and accept a wider range of plastics.

Rosie Cooper during her visit with Viridor site manager Gary Welsh.

Interesting

Ms Cooper met with site manager Gary Welsh and public affairs manager James Cox to hear about the industry's views on how the Government can improve legislation to further encourage home recycling and ensure producers use more sustainable forms of packaging, including plastic, that can be recycled.

She said: "It was interesting to see first-hand the work that goes on in such a recycling plant and to learn the finer detail of the work undertaken by this industry. And hearing about little changes producers can make, from the colour of plastics to the moulds used, to not using mixed types of plastic in one package which can all go a long way to increasing the UK's plastic recycling rates.

"UK recycling rates have ultimately plateaued since 2010 sitting at about 40 to 45% but these small changes can help get us up and over that 50% mark.

"I will be writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to raise these issues and push for change to be implemented."

Site manager, Gary Welsh, commented: "We were delighted to welcome local MP Rosie Cooper to see first-hand how Viridor is turning plastic waste into material for new products. We look forward to working with her to boost plastic recycling rates."

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Mother and baby unit opens for women with mental health issues

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WOMEN in Lancashire who are experiencing perinatal mental health problems can now access care, support and treatment through a new Mother and Baby Unit and new specialist community service.

Ribblemere is an eight-bed Mother and Baby Unit (MBU) based at Chorley Hospital for mothers who are experiencing severe mental illness during the latter stages of pregnancy or in the year after giving birth, and who cannot be treated safely in their own home.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust says the new unit will provide a safe place for women to be supported and treated alongside their babies, allowing for their relationship to be maintained and nurtured alongside their recovery.

The trust has also announced the launch of an additional and new community perinatal mental health service to support new and expectant mums living in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

The new service, paid for with £1.3m the trust has received from NHS England, will launch from January 2019 and will offer psychiatric and psychological assessments and care for women with complex or severe mental health problems during pregnancy up to one year after giving birth.

Consultant psychiatrist Dr Gill Strachan says the new service is a "huge development" for women in Lancashire.

The service will also provide pre-conception advice for women with a current or past severe mental illness who are planning a pregnancy.

Dr Gill Strachan, consultant psychiatrist for the MBU at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are incredibly excited to have opened this brand new mother and baby unit here in the North West. Perinatal mental health problems are a major public health concern with up to 20% of women developing a mental illness during pregnancy or within the first year after having a baby.

Specialist care

"The new service is a huge development for women living across Lancashire and Cumbria who are experiencing severe perinatal mental illness.

"By providing the service in Lancashire it means that, for the first time women are able to access specialist care alongside their baby which is closer to home.

"Previously women have had to travel to units outside the counties and away from their families, which can often add to their distress.

"The additional £1.3 million investment for specialist community perinatal mental health services will mean that women across Lancashire and South Cumbria will be able to access high-quality services when and where they need them."

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Furious resident slams county council's plan to remove pavement bollards

"Safety of pedestrians should be a priority"

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council's plans to remove four bollards which it had previously installed on a pavement in West Lancashire has been criticised by a furious local resident.

The authority had said its U-turn on the matter, reported in the Champion (October 31) had been prompted by residents' feedback.

But one resident, who preferred not to be named, contacted us blasting the decision and claiming the bollards - outside No. 54 Roby Mill - were installed as a safety measure on the recommendation of the police.

The resident, who believes the bollards should stay, said: "These bollards were installed on the recommendation of Lancashire Constabulary due to the fact that vehicles were constantly parking and obstructing the pavement/footway, which is an offence as it was causing complete loss of sight lines (a planning regulation) and forced pedestrians into the road to get past these vehicles. There is no pavement or footway to cross over to on the other side of the road.

"We are currently awaiting the reason for the planned removal of these bollards and what exactly are the concerns of the residents who asked for them to be moved, from Mr Phil Durnell, head of highways at Lancashire County Council.

"We believe these concerns and complaints are unjustified and that the safety of pedestrians should be a priority, hence the police's recommendation.

"A signpost near to where the bollards were placed has been repeatedly driven into, reversed into, bent and demolished on numerous occasions. This signpost can only be hit by vehicles being driven fully on the pavement.

"If the bollards are to be removed someone at the council should be accountable for this terrible waste of public money at a time when councils are complaining they never have enough."

Announcing the rethink on the bollards, Phil Durnall had said: " We looked carefully at all of the information provided and have now taken the decision to remove these bollards."

Right: The signpost on Roby Mill which the resident claims has been repeatedly damaged by cars being driven on the pavement.

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Ormskirk line stations and tracks ready for new Merseyrail trains

Report by **Kenny Parker**

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper pictured with Suzanne Grant, commercial director of Merseyrail.

UPGRADES to the Merseyrail stations on the Ormskirk line to prepare them for the arrival of new trains have been successfully completed on time, the company has announced.

The new trains, costing £460m and scheduled to be introduced gradually across the network next year, have new sliding step technology which requires all station platforms to be the same height. Tracks also need to be realigned.

A replacement bus service was put in place while upgrades to each of the platforms and remodelling of the track took place between Ormskirk and Orrell Park stations.

The work was completed on Saturday, November 10. Upgrades to the rest of the Merseyrail network, in 11 stages overall, is due to be completed next June.

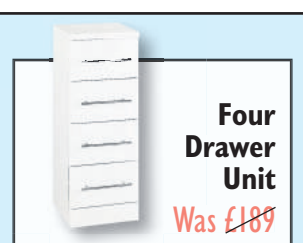
West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has welcomed the upgrade and also the prospect of a future rail service to Skelmersdale. Merseyrail has previously said that the new trains will trial being run on batteries which would enable the service to be expanded to the town.

Merseyrail managing director, Andy Heath, said: "It's fantastic news that the Ormskirk line is now ready for the new fleet of trains and we're pleased that passengers now have their usual service restored when it was promised. A lot of work had gone into minimising disruption as much as possible while this work took place.

"This is the largest investment in the network since the 1970s and is vital to prepare it for the arrival of the new state-of-the-art trains in 2020 which include pioneering sliding step technology and will result in unassisted access for all our passengers."

Rosie Cooper commented: "My constituents will be very pleased that normal service will resume for those passengers using the Ormskirk line, following the completion of the platform upgrade work. This represents good progress in bringing new trains on to the network and the future extension of services to Skelmersdale which will be very welcome when they arrive."

Merseyrail say the new trains will be faster, safer, more comfortable, and able to carry 50% more passengers. The company also claim that they will boost the regional economy by £70 million every year, create around 1,000 new jobs, and make Merseyrail the most accessible rail network in the UK.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County council says lights 'switch' will save £440k a year

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Above: County Councillor Keith Iddon and (right) one of the new LED lamps which the authority says are expected to work reliably for around 20 years.

LANCASHIRE e County Council's cabinet has agreed proposals aimed at saving £440,000 a year by changing the way it maintains street lights - including the scrapping of night-time inspections.

Council chiefs say the decision follows the introduction of more-reliable LED lamps.

And the authority said results of a recent public consultation showed that 57% of respondents agreed with plans to stop night-time inspections, while half agreed with plans to extend the routine testing cycle from five to 10 years.

The council has been replacing the old-style sodium lamps with LED lamps for a number of years, with around 114,000 of the county's 151,000 street lights now upgraded to LEDs. A further programme of investment means that almost all will be LEDs by 2021.

LED lights are expected to work reliably for around 20 years, lasting much longer than the traditional sodium lights, resulting in less need to check and fix them.

The council will now stop carrying out night-time inspections, and move to making routine tests of street lights every 10 years, rather than every five years. However, when members of the public report faults, council chiefs say they will be quick to fix them, maintaining the current five-day response target whenever a problem is reported.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Like many councils we are facing an extremely challenging financial position, and this is one area where the increased reliability of new technology means we can save with no significant impact on the quality of service.

"The consultation shows that people broadly accept these changes and understand why we're making them.

"I'd like to reassure those respondents who were concerned that there may be fewer working street lights that this is not something we expect to happen, or would accept. Faults should occur much less often with LED lamps, and when they are reported we will respond within five days, and immediately if there should ever be a bigger problem."

The projected savings to the council's budget will be made from 2019/20 onwards.

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Rosie Cooper backs clean air for children campaign

ROSIE Cooper has pledged her support to an organisation calling for clean air for children.

The Clean Air Parents' Network held a Parliamentary reception to launch a new campaign, the Clean Air for Children Programme, which would introduce a range of emergency measures to protect children and babies' lungs from illegal and harmful levels of air pollution where they learn and play.

West Lancs MP Ms Cooper commented: "I believe all children deserve clean air, and I want to see a future where children's health is not compromised by the quality of the air they breathe in West Lancashire."

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Village pub to provide free Christmas Community Lunch for the elderly and lonely

Report by **Henry James**

STAFF at a West Lancs pub are planning to hold a free Christmas Community Lunch - complete with roast turkey and Christmas pudding - for the elderly and people who are lonely.

The event, which is open to residents from across the borough, will be held at the Red Lion in Newburgh from noon on Thursday, December 6.

And the management of the The Spinney Nursing Home in Up Holland have donated funds to enable a mini bus to take those attending to and from the pub in Ashbrow.

The plan is to cater for between 60 to 70 people but a second sitting might be organised if there is the demand.

Assistant manager of the Red Lion, Nichola Scott, said: "There are many people who are lonely at Christmas and don't leave the house. We are asking people to get in touch if they know a neighbour or friend or relative who might appreciate this meal.

"There are also many members of the older generation who are on their own Anyone who is interested should call the pub directly. If they want picking up, they should leave an address.

"We want to reach a wide audience and bring people together. This community lunch might enable people to make new friends.

Festive spirit . . . staff at the Red Lion in Newburgh are getting ready to welcome guests to a free Christmas Community Lunch

"This is the first time that this has been done at the Red Lion. It was just something we wanted to do and we are funding the food and refreshments.

"The pub is owned by Marston's and they have provided the funding. We have had an amazing response on social media and the initial response locally has been positive.

"Local businesses have also been very supportive of the event so far, but we would always welcome more help."

Meanwhile the staff are also asking for donations such as packs of Christmas cards.

For more information on the Christmas Community Lunch call the Red Lion on 01257 462336.

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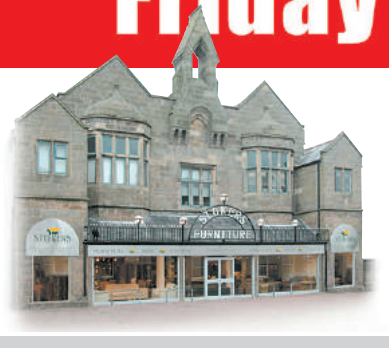

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Michael tackles half-triathlon test in aid of hospitals' paediatric diabetes charity

A KEEN cyclist from West Lancashire raised £690 for the Southport and Ormskirk hospitals' paediatric diabetes charity by completing a half-triathlon.

Michael Barlow underwent an intense 14-week training schedule to prepare for the Chester Triathlon.

And the 38-year-old completed the event - comprising a 500-metre swim, 21km bike ride and a 5km run, in two hours eight minutes.

Michael, from Skelmersdale, raises money for a different charity each year and was inspired to support by the diabetes fund by the child of a family friend who is a patient at Ormskirk Hospital.

Dr May Ng, consultant paediatric endocrinologist with Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, said: "The team was delighted to receive Michael's generous donation and I thank everyone who sponsored him."

She said the money would go towards essential learning and teaching materials for patients, and for the team to hold regular evening education sessions for families and children with diabetes.

● Right: Michael and wife Karen (centre) get set to hand over the cheque to Dr May Ng (2nd right) and members of the hospitals' paediatric diabetes team.

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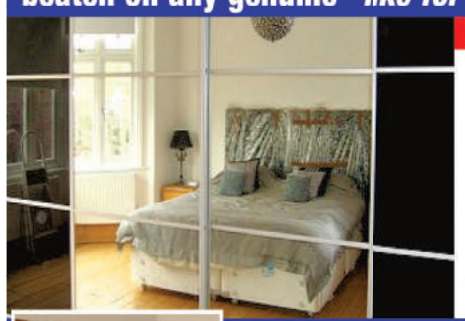

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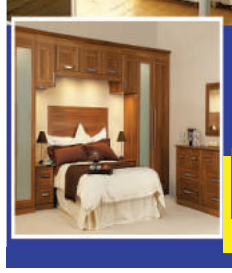

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Council's annual housing report available online

WEST Lancs Council's Housing Annual Report, cataloguing the work of the authority's Housing and Inclusion Service over the last 12 months, is available to view now on the council's website.

The council produces the report each year to provide tenants with details about what the service has achieved over the course of the year.

Created in the form of an infographic, the report can be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk/annualreport.

Councillor Jenny Forshaw, the council's cabinet member for housing and landlord services, said: "Tenants will find the annual report very interesting reading and they can find out more about what the council is doing for them.

"The Housing and Inclusion Service staff can be very proud of the work they do. The service continues to provide excellent value for money through our partnerships and tendering processes by ensuring we get the best quality at the best price."

Councillor Jenny Forshaw.

West Lancs Council provides nearly 6,000 homes for tenants and the authority says that working to deliver housing that meets the needs of local people, including affordable housing, and aiming to be a top performing landlord are important priorities in its Council Plan.

Included among the 'achievements' for 2017/18 listed in the Housing Annual Report are:

● Making improvements to 1,657 homes through the council's investment programme.

● Helping 566 tenants move into their new homes.

● Supporting almost 1,400 tenants by providing rent and money advice, helping them access nearly £250,000 extra in benefits.

● Carrying out 22,035 repairs to tenants homes.

● Collecting £107,000 of rent arrears from former tenants.

The report also tells tenants how much rent was collected in the course of 2017/18 and how it is spent. And there is information showing some of the ways the council are investing in the future, including helping tenants to go digital.

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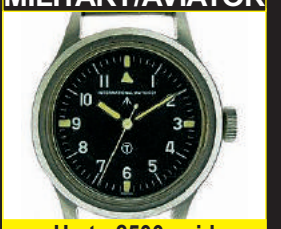

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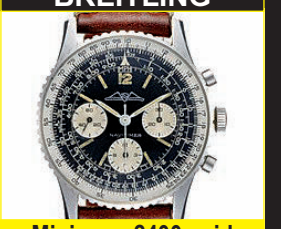

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Tues 27th November 11 am - 3 pm

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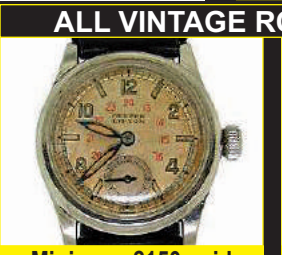

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Minimum £1000 paid

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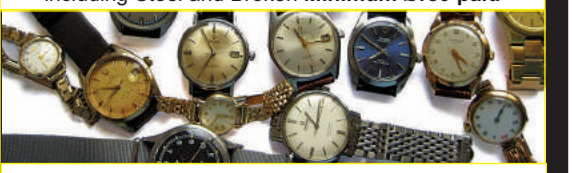

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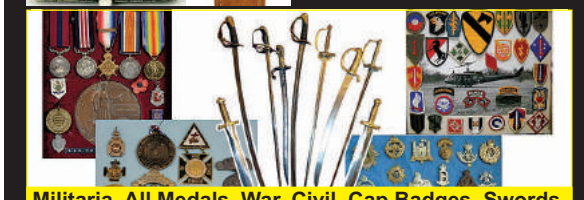

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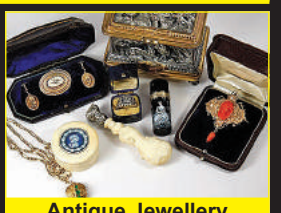

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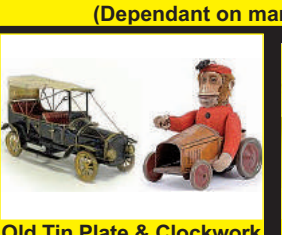

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Why are car park users who over-stay punished while those parking on double yellow lines get off scot-free?

HAVING been a reader of the Champion for many years and over the last few months reading about people's concerns about the parking charges in Ormskirk I thought I would have my say.

I visit Ormskirk five mornings a week as I live in Aughton and, like 99% of other drivers, I pay £1 to park for the allotted time and I go about my business.

What I am angry about is if you go over your time or you forget to purchase a ticket for the car park you will receive a fine.

So, why is it ok for the other 1% of drivers to break the law and park on double yellow lines and stay there all day and have nothing done to them whatsoever? Why do they not get a fine? Why is it only the honest people who pay to use car parks that are punished all the time?

I have been a driver for 25 years and I remember quite clearly that it says in the Highway Code it is ILLEGAL to park on double yellow lines. If you are disabled then that is another matter.

Yet this morning after I paid my £1 parking fee yet again it only took me 10 minutes to walk around and see a number of cars parked on double yellow lines and not one had a disabled badge on.

So why on Earth is nothing being done about this?

Are we now to assume that we are allowed to park on double yellow lines and we are ok to break the law?

Should I start parking on the lines and if or when I get a fine I can simply produce images of others breaking the law and they will also be fined?

This may sound silly but I visit Ormskirk five mornings a week and have done for the last few months simply for a nice coffee and sometimes breakfast as I like to relax and read a book. And on every occasion I have paid my car park fees and I have noticed vehicles parked illegally each and every day.

So, as of today I will no longer be putting money into the council's pockets, and the coffee shops I like to visit will lose out on my money as I will be going to other places in future for my coffee.

I am more than happy to visit Hurlston Hall and Hartley's garden centre - places that may be further away but have free parking and I won't have to be surrounded by people breaking the law by parking illegally.

David Jenkins, by email.

Village simply doesn't have the infrastructure to cope with 800-plus more homes

I ATTENDED the council meeting in Aughton Village Hall on Monday, November 12 for the proposed 'affordable housing development' on the fields opposite town green school and I was utterly amazed at the blatant disregard for common sense, Green Belt laws and local residents' safety and wishes.

Aughton simply does not have the infrastructure for the amount of residents it has at the moment, let alone another 800-plus homes/families.

And one councillor actually said at this meeting that they would not have the budget to address the state of the roads we have for the foreseeable future.

Another point that was brought up, and was instantly dismissed, was that the land that the proposal will affect is top grade farmland which, post-Brexit, will be invaluable for the local farming economy.

There are so many more suitable sites for these so-called 'affordable' houses that where voiced in this meeting. Places that already have the infrastructure in place to accommodate more residents.

But I feel that these suggestions will, sadly, fall on deaf ears. My head tells me that this is all about money and profit. And, if I'm correct, no matter what anyone says this will happen and our nice village will just have to deal with the consequences.

And when you have too many cars on roads that are not fit for purpose coupled with the early morning rush hour and school runs the consequence could be a child's life.

I hope the decision-makers will be able to live with that when there are clearly better options.

Tragically amused by the sheer lunacy of it all,
Aughton resident since 1986.

More parking spaces on university campus would surely mean even more chaos on surrounding roads

I NOTE that 'Frustrated motorist' (Letters, November 7) is a member of staff at Edge Hill University who says that the council have turned down requests from the university for additional parking spaces.

I don't know if that is so but, what I do know is that, as part of the planning process for the development of the new sports complex, the council asked the university to look in to the feasibility of providing a park and ride facility away from the campus. The university declined to do this on the grounds that the park and ride facility at Southport had failed, but the two situations are not comparable. Despite my protestations, the council accepted this flimsy excuse.

I therefore consider the university culpable by adopting an attitude of not wanting to be told what to do.

Surely, if more parking spaces were to be provided on campus that would only serve to increase the number of vehicles seeking to access the site in the morning causing even more chaos on the surrounding roads.

**Concerned local resident,
details supplied.**

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Local Plan Preferred Options would mean unnecessary stress and disruption for West Lancs residents

THE Local Plan Preferred Options paper states that the minimum housing level to meet West Lancashire's needs from 2012 to 2050 is a total of 9,736. It then adds on a further 6,256 dwellings because 'there may well be unmet housing needs arising in Sefton beyond their current Local Plan (post-2030).'

This would mean West Lancashire building an extra 64 per cent of dwellings above and beyond our own communities' needs. And remember, it's mainly on prime productive agricultural land.

I find this a bit strange because Sefton's Local Plan, only adopted in 2017 and running until 2030, indicates they have already have more than sufficient sites, and in fact have spare capacity in safeguarded land.

It is also worth noting that Sefton have on average around 4,000 empty properties that should be the priority to meet any future needs

At the November Aughton Parish Council meeting when asked if there had been a documented request from Sefton for West Lancashire to meet their shortfall, Councillor Hodson, confirmed there had not.

He would or could not provide any written evidence to support the need for the additional 6,256 dwellings.

Asked why he was prepared to cause so much unnecessary stress and disruption to his constituents on what appears to be a speculative and over-ambitious desire to turn swathes of West Lancashire's Green Belt into housing estates, he basically said it's all complex and strategic.

It seems that a major factor in wanting a new Local Plan that extends to 2050 is to justify including Sefton's possible needs that will not arise until the 2030s and 40s.

It's worth pointing out that if these proposals are implemented in a new Local Plan all the sites will be out of the Green Belt and become immediate targets in an 'open season' for developers.

I feel Councillor Hodson believes in the Prefered Options but it seems that in their desire to be seen to be progressive strategic partners with the Liverpool City Region, our borough council have lost sight of to whom they owe their true allegiance, namely the current residents of West Lancashire.

Dave, Aughton Residents Group, by email.

Five Ways junction needs a complete re-design

IT'S said that you can fool all of the people some of the time, or some of the people all of the time but Lancashire County Council are seeking to fool ALL of the people ALL of the time.

Their own evidence overwhelmingly showed that speed was not a key factor in causing accidents on County Road, Ormskirk. It was the junctions, with most occurring at the ludicrously designed - and I use that word in the loosest sense - 'Five Ways.'

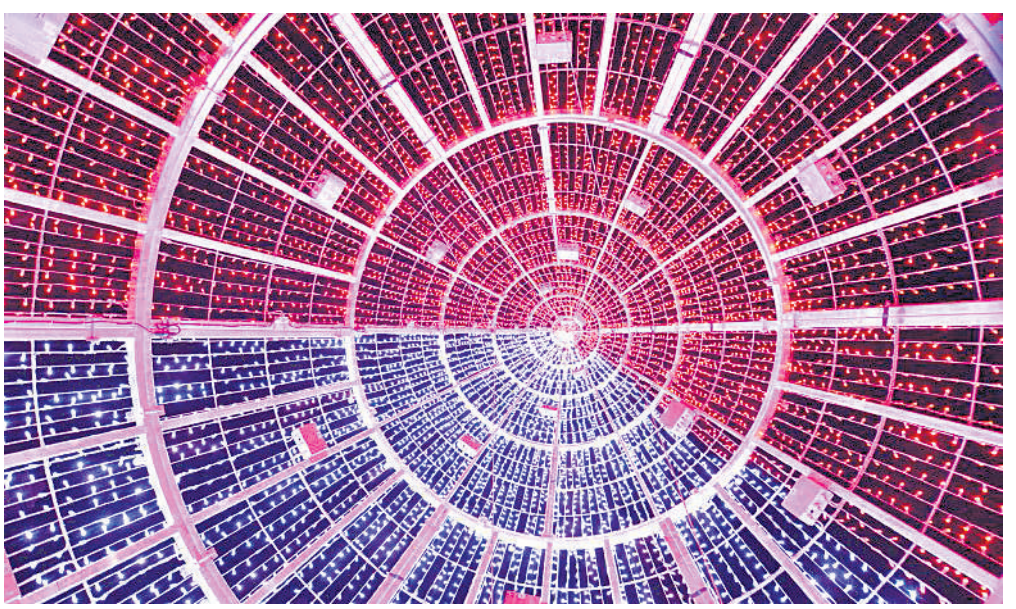
Personally, I do not care what the speed limit is reduced to - it will not reduce or prevent accidents - and that is what we all want. So why has this decision been made?

Lancashire CC claim they are listening to what the public want, so that gets them off the hook. Really? It costs little to put up some signs and white paint on the road. Will those in the council be able to live with their decision when they realise that such useless actions have little or no effect?

The 'Five Ways' junction needs a total re-design (which could be helped with an Ormskirk bypass), but in the meantime it desperately needs cameras to catch those red light jumpers.

Martin Pagett, by email, details supplied.

PICTURE of the week



Aim for the stars... the view inside Southport's custom built 60-foot digital Christmas 'Tree' using 20,000 LEDs which brought some high tech sparkle to the town's Town Hall Gardens when it was switched on last Sunday. Picture by Martyn Snape.

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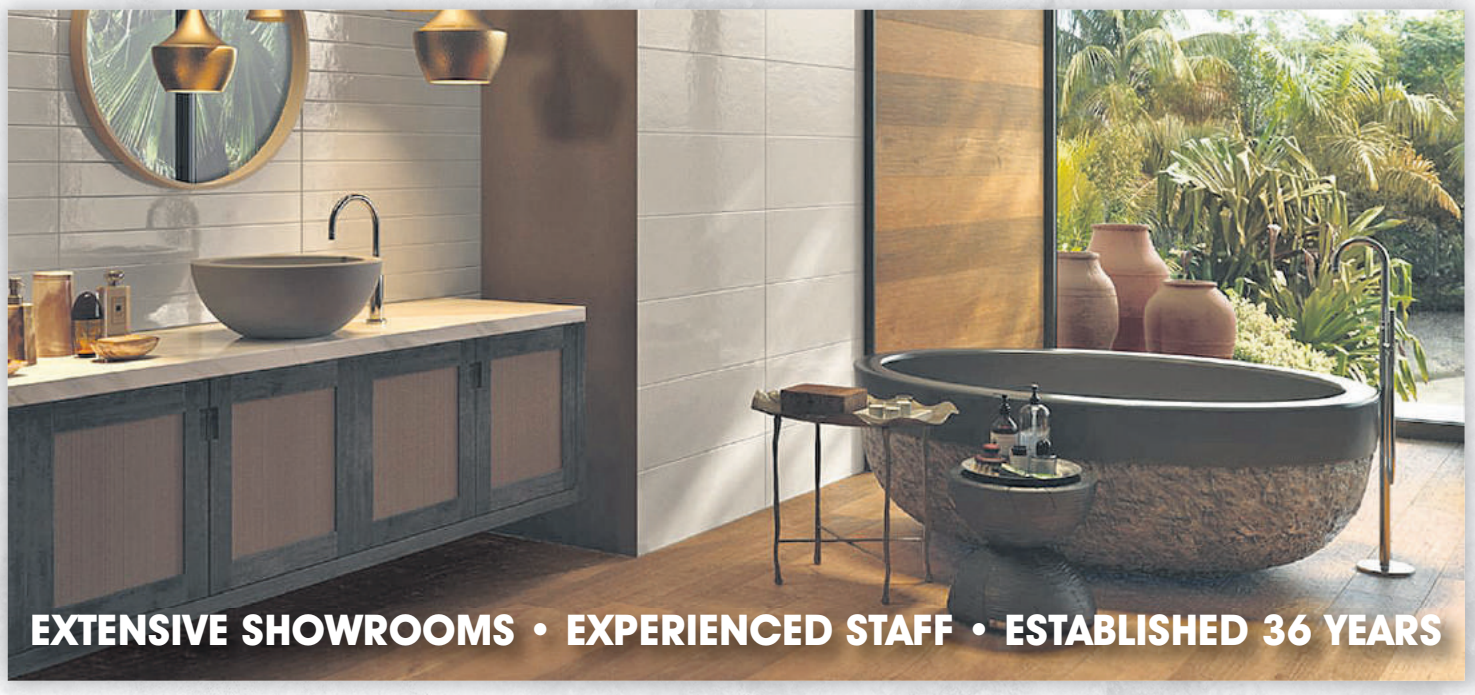

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'Don't overdo the booze' warning to festive season rail travellers

Report by **Henry James**

NORTHERN Rail bosses are warning passengers not to get too drunk in the run-up to Christmas or they could be banned from its network.

Highlighting in particular the popular Manchester Christmas Markets street festivities which started on Friday, November 9 and run until Saturday, December 22, Northern aims to ensure excessive drinking, which can lead to anti-social behaviour and violence, doesn't spill over onto its trains.

Regonal director, Liam Sumpter, said: "Christmas is a fantastic time of year and the markets in Manchester give everyone the chance to have fun in the lead up to the big day.

"However, with so much food and drink on offer it's easy to get carried away and overdo the celebrating - and this could result in you not being allowed home on our trains."

Northern staff, supported by British Transport Police, may refuse travel to anyone who is thought to be too drunk.

Liam added: "Sadly, when someone has had too much to drink, we sometimes see this turn into aggression and violence towards other customers and our staff. This has no place on the railway and can spoil Christmas for everyone involved.

"We are working closely with BTP to make our trains and stations as safe as possible this Christmas and will not tolerate any behaviour that puts customers or staff at risk."

Northern Rail regional director Liam Sumpter says passengers who have had too much to drink could be stopped from boarding trains.

Chief Inspector Dave Rams, of BTP, said: "As the party season gets underway, we ask that while you enjoy the festive fun with a tipple or two, please don't overdo it and risk having to fork out for a cab home because you've been refused travel on the train.

"Most importantly since it's the season of goodwill, please respect rail staff who are doing their best to get you home safely. Be patient and be nice. We understand it's easy to get stressed with the added pressures of Christmas, crowded trains and packed stations but please keep an even temper."

● **Anyone who witnesses anti-social or violent behaviour on the railway can call British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 or text 61016.**

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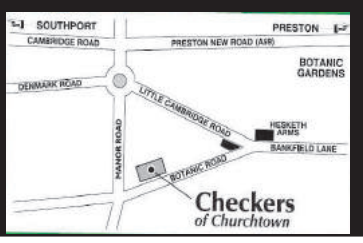

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Hairdressers earn royal award for training scheme

ANDREW Collinge Hairdessers, which has a branch in Ormskirk, has been recognised for its commitment to upskilling its workforce with a 2018 Princess Royal Training Award.

Chairman and creative director, Andrew Collinge, received the award from Princess Anne at an awards ceremony at St James's Palace. He was joined by Ormskirk's salon manager Jane Wood, who is also an advanced apprenticeship training manager.

Jane joined the company more than 30 years ago as a stylist and has worked her way up from senior stylist to style director, also working as a tutor, before finally advancing on to training manager and salon manager. During her career she has won many awards while the Ormskirk branch also won Salon of the Year at the Andrew Collinge Awards under her management.

The company received the commendation from Princess Anne for its Graduates salons concept. All newly-qualified Andrew Collinge apprentices go through one of the company's two Graduates salons to hone their hairdressing skills and be given responsibility to help run the salons on their own.

Andrew Collinge said: "To receive this prestigious award from The Princess Royal gives me great pride. The award ceremony at St James Palace was a very special occasion and I was particularly pleased to be able to share the occasion with Jane Wood, our Advanced Apprenticeship Training manager and Georgia Meacock, the current Andrew Collinge Graduate of the Year. Both are excellent representatives of all who do fantastic work within our salons and training division."

Ormskirk salon manager Jane Wood (left), Andrew Collinge and Georgia Meacock with the award.

Grant funds community centre loos makeover

OFFICIALS of Hesketh Bank Community Centre are feeling flushed with success thanks to a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

The money has been used to fit vanity units with warm water in the ladies toilets at the centre on Station Road.

Treasurer, Diane Earles, said: "The vanity units were donated last year by Kevin Pointon and these monies have now paid for the plumber and electrician to get them installed. It is great to finally have warm water to wash our hands with and we can tick another job off our list."

The £10,000 grant has already helped the community centre to buy-much needed tables and the next thing on their shopping list is cups, which are in short supply when they have a big function on.

Chairman, Steve Kirby, added: "Receiving this award is a mark of quality of the work we are doing in the community and we would like to thank the Big Lottery Fund and all the lottery players for this recognition and support."

Meanwhile the centre will be holding an extraordinary general meeting to consider a proposal to change its status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) designed for non-profit organisations in the UK.

The meeting will take place in the front hall of the centre on Wednesday, November 28 starting at 7pm. Tea and biscuits will be provided and all are welcome.

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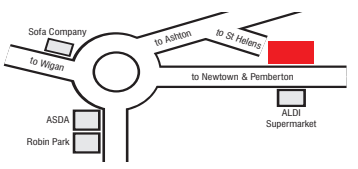

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Constabulary hails rural crime 'day of action' success

Report by **Henry James**

A DAY of action aimed at targeting travelling criminals who commit rural crime has been hailed as a success.

Lancashire Constabulary joined police forces from across England and Wales as part of Operation Checkpoint, a nationwide campaign focused on disrupting criminals who use road networks to offend in rural areas.

The operation ran throughout Thursday and into the early hours of Friday (November 8 and 9) with each force providing officers and specialist resources for their own areas.

Superintendent Julian Platt, of Lancashire Police, said: "This operation has been aimed primarily at disrupting organised crime groups who operate between force areas committing acquisitive crime, potentially countrywide and predominantly in rural areas.

"We have carried out a number of stop/checks across the county targeting vehicles and trailers carrying plant and agricultural machinery, as well as other vehicles relating to police intelligence.

"We have also provided high-visibility reassurance to members of the public and rural communities, with a particular focus on the theft of plant and agricultural equipment, hare coursing and organised crime links.

Police Commissioner Clive Grunshaw says protecting our county's communities is a priority.

"74% of Lancashire's geographical area is classed as rural. We are keen to work with the residents living in these areas to clamp down on criminals wherever they are from, and wherever they are going.

"Rural and wildlife officers are working with Lancashire Tactical Operations officers to extend their reach across Lancashire and stop cross-border criminals."

Recent police intelligence has shown organised crime groups targeting semi-rural cash machines to commit offences.

Criminals often carry out reconnaissance of targets, including paying unusual attention to CCTV, traffic and footfall. On occasion plant materials, such as JCB diggers, have been used to smash into buildings to remove ATMs.

During the day of action, Lancashire Police made several arrests and seizures.

Dedication

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, added: "Rural crime can have a huge impact on victims and this is a great example of the work being done here in Lancashire to protect those who live and work in our rural areas.

"Protecting our rural communities is as much a priority for me as it is policing our more urban towns and cities and this is part of a long-term commitment at Lancashire Constabulary to tackle rural crime.

"This campaign clearly demonstrates the enthusiasm and dedication our rural officers have to catch criminals who operate across the rural areas of the county."

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Champion Empire competition winners

THE three winners of the Champion's Brendan Cole competition, who each received a pair of tickets to his show at the Liverpool Empire, were Joan Colley from Lydiate; Lucy Nadin from Southport and Kath Fenney from Westhead.

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Maybe a clown could do a better job than a lame duck?

I SHOULD know better but I'm composing this last Thursday evening, and since I propose to return to Brexit anything could have happened by now - or not.

For some time now I have kept my counsel on this subject, hoping against forlorn hope that Mrs May had some kind of cunning plan and all would turn out well.

Why? I do not know. The lady always was a kind of lukewarm Remainer anyway and though I honestly think she thought she could lead us from the turgid grip of the European Union, I should have realised from the start that whoever was leading the negotiations from our side had to really have their heart and soul in it.

Yet from the start, Theresa May looked and sounded more like a supplicant than a British champion, ready to come out fighting our corner. So it all went cock-eyed. At every step we gave the impression that we would pay any price to leave the moribund organisation and we would now appear to be paying £39 billion for the privilege of more or less of staying in, only without tiresome asides from some of our Euro MPs trying, mostly unsuccessfully, to get changes to proposed EU dicktats.

'Operation Fear' was up and running from the outset too. If we dare upset our European 'friends' then something or other bad may happen. If we don't concur with what 'they' think we owe in order to escape, we will dishonourably be breaking the law (their law) and apparently Britain does not do that.

And of course there was always that old bogey in the background. Mrs May may have said (actually she did, several times) that 'no deal was better than a bad deal' - but from day one the doom-mongers have gone on about 'falling off the cliff' etc. etc. and as per usual the media, certainly radio and TV, went along wholeheartedly with this.

How many lengthy interviews have you heard or seen with those (in fact there are many knowledgeable people about who understand these things and believe it) who say rubbish, going on to World Trade Organisation rules, as incidentally most countries are, could be the making of us.

Yes, there is a risk, but the person who never took a risk never won anything worth having.

I have no idea where we may be in six days time when you read this, but assuming we still have our lame duck Prime Minister, I'm quite honestly coming to the opinion that we would quite possibly be better served if Jeremy Corbyn was leading the discussions.

Sniping

At least he was always (and I think still is) a Brexiteer at heart. Trouble is, to achieve that we would also have to have a government led by him and his spendthrift colleagues.

It would have been different if Boris Johnson had become leader of the Tories - and he came within a whisker of it. A Boris in the job as PM might have been quite a different animal than Boris sniping from the sidelines. I'm pretty sure he has a serious side and if he could pack away the clown act his approach to the EU would have been far more firm than the limp efforts of Theresa May.

She quite obviously hasn't learned from history when it comes to negotiating with our European neighbours. From the outset she tried appeasement, and all she has won from that is for M. Barnier to get his way at just about every turn.

NW Ambulance Service appoints new chief exec

THE North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) has appointed a new chief executive.

Following the retirement of Derek Cartwright earlier this year, the trust has announced the appointment of Daren Mochrie who will be joining the team in the spring.

Daren was appointed following an intensive recruitment process which took place in the summer, involving commissioners, non-executive directors and external representatives.

Daren Mochrie - new chief executive at the North West Ambulance Service.

Experience

He has worked for the NHS since the age of 17, has extensive experience of managing ambulance services in both rural and urban settings and has previously been the director of operations for the Scottish Ambulance Service and the lead for ambulance provision in the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

He has also held the position of specialist advisor with the Care Quality Commission (CQC), leading four recent CQC inspections of ambulance trusts in England.

NWAS chair, Wyn Dignan said: "We're very pleased to be welcoming Daren to the trust, he has a wealth of experience within the NHS, and in particular the ambulance sector, and we look forward to continuing to provide the best care for our patients under his leadership."

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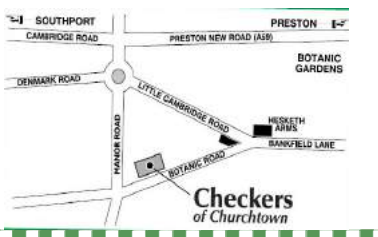

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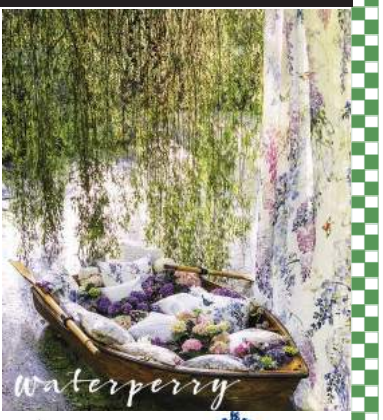

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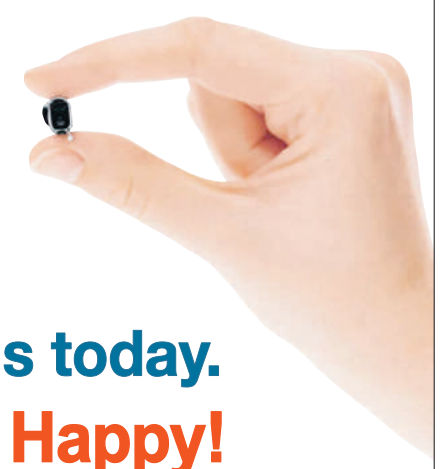

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DATE		AREA (Principal streets shown plus nearby streets)
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Nov 27	Tue	South Meade (incl Dover Meadows)
Nov 28	Wed	Moss Lane
Nov 29	Thur	Grosvenor Road
Nov 30	Fri	North of The Frank Hornby
Dec 01	Sat	CENTRAL SQUARE All day
Dec 01	Sat	Melling North
Dec 02	Sun	Claremont Ave/Buckingham Rd
Dec 03	Mon	Green Park,
Dec 04	Tue	Redgate/Beechwood Ormskirk
Dec 05	Wed	North Lydiate
Dec 06	Thur	Lydiate/Haigh Ave
Dec 07	Fri	Lathom Drive
Dec 08	Sat	MORRISON'S All day
Dec 08	Sat	Aughton 3 Swanpool/Long Lane
Dec 09	Sun	MORRISON'S All day
Dec 09	Sun	Aughton 2 Scott Estate/Sefton Gardens
Dec 10	Mon	Maghull Station
Dec 11	Tue	Aughton 4 Delph Estate
Dec 12	Wed	Dodds Lane
Dec 13	Thur	Alt Estate
Dec 14	Fri	Poppyfields & Parkbourne
Dec 15	Sat	Home Bargains all day
Dec 15	Sat	Meadows South
Dec 16	Sun	Home Bargains all day
Dec 16	Sun	Lakes
Dec 17	Mon	Melling South
Dec 18	Tue	Ridgeway Road
Dec 19	Wed	Rivington Drive Burscough
Dec 20	Thur	ASDA all day
Dec 20	Thur	Aintree
Dec 21	Fri	ASDA all day
Dec 21	Fri	Aintree
Dec 22	Sat	ASDA all day
Dec 22	Sat	Aintree

The Float is manned by volunteers and the rota is subject to change in the event of operational problems or adverse weather conditions.

Couple shaping up nicely for festive party season!

Husband and wife shed seven-and-a-half stones-plus to earn plaudits from fellow Slimming World members

Report by **Henry James**

HUSBAND and wife super slimmers Chris and Sue Newsome are getting ready to 'shine' this Christmas party season after achieving a combined weight loss of more than seven-and-a-half stones!

And to mark their efforts the couple have been voted Miss Slinky and Mr Sleek 2018, respectively by fellow members of the Ormskirk Slimming World group.

Sue lost more than four stone while Chris shed three stone seven pound.

Slimming World's annual Miss Slinky and Mr Sleek competitions recognise those members who have transformed, both inside and out, by becoming healthier and happier, slimmer and more confident, and who look great in their Christmas party clothes.

The national winners of both titles will each win a £2,000 cash prize.

Sue, who has dropped from a dress size 18 to a size 12, said: "I was already really looking forward to this Christmas and feeling confident enough to wear outfits that I couldn't or wouldn't have last year. Winning the title of Miss Slinky means I have even more to celebrate and I know this festive season will be extra special."

Chris and Sue Newsome before (left) and after (right) losing the weight

Chris, who has lost five inches from his waist, added: "Being voted for by the other members of the group is really great because it's thanks to them and their support - and our consultant Tina Whewell - that we've stayed committed to losing weight.

"As a man, joining a slimming group is quite nerve-wracking yet I can honestly say it's one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Tina, who runs the Slimming World groups at Ormskirk Rugby Club every Wednesday and Saturday where Sue and Chris attend, said she was extremely proud of the couple.

She said: "Christmas is a time of year for getting dressed up and having a good time. But I know a lot of members our often dread it because they feel uncomfortable and out of place at parties.

"This year though I know Sue and Chris will feel completely different and I hope they'll be accepting every invitation they receive and showing off their fabulous new zest for life – they definitely live up to their new titles of Miss Slinky and Mr Sleek in my eyes."

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Christmas Day Lunch Menu

STARTER

Pan Fried Scallops served on a minted pea puree and topped with crispy pancetta
Melon and Feta Salad diced watermelon and feta cheese with fresh rocket in a balsamic glaze
Duck Liver and Cognac Pate with a plum chutney and sourdough bread

SOUP COURSE

Winter Vegetable Soup homemade chunky vegetable soup topped with herb croutons

MAIN COURSE

Traditional Roast Turkey with sage and onion stuffing, local pork chipolatas and cranberry jus
Pan Seared Venison topped with a wild mushrooms and shallots in a port jus and served with fondant potato and crispy kale
Baked Seabass with a Lemon and Caper Dressing served with sautéed potatoes and tender stem broccoli
Camembert, Fig and Red Onion Tartlet (V) on a warm winter salad with a spiced plum dressing

DESSERT

Dark Chocolate Torte topped with a salted caramel and macadamia nut brittle, served with crème fraîche
Baked Cranberry Cheesecake served with frosted cranberries and a mulled wine coulis
Traditional Christmas Pudding with a brandy cream sauce
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www.lancashiremanorhotel.com for further details

Telephone 01695 567260

Big night for Day

SKEM super lightweight boxer Colin 'Dayo' Day is back in action on Friday, November 30 when he takes on Tom McGuinness at Liverpool's Olympia stadium.

This will be a big night for the 28-year-old against a promising youngster who has a 100% record from his seven pro contests to date.

Day, who has won five of his six bouts in the paid ranks, will be aiming to clinch a shot at fellow Skem man Steve Brogan's Central Area title if he can inflict the 23-year-old Liverpudlian's first defeat.

Anyone wanting tickets for the show can contact Colin on 07743 459 163.

Brookfield Park strike gold at schools handball tournament

SPORTY pupils from a Skelmersdale primary school struck gold in an inter-schools handball tournament.

The team from Brookfield Park Primary, made up of Years 3 and 4 pupils, sailed through the group stages of the tournament at Our Lady's Queen of Peace High winning their three games 3-1, 3-0 and 6-3 to clinch their place in the semi finals.

In the semi they fought back from a 2-0 deficit to beat St Richard's 3-2 with a last-minute winner.

There were no such scares in the final though as they ran out 9-1 winners against Little Digmoor to take the trophy.

The triumphant Brookfield Park Primary team with their trophy.

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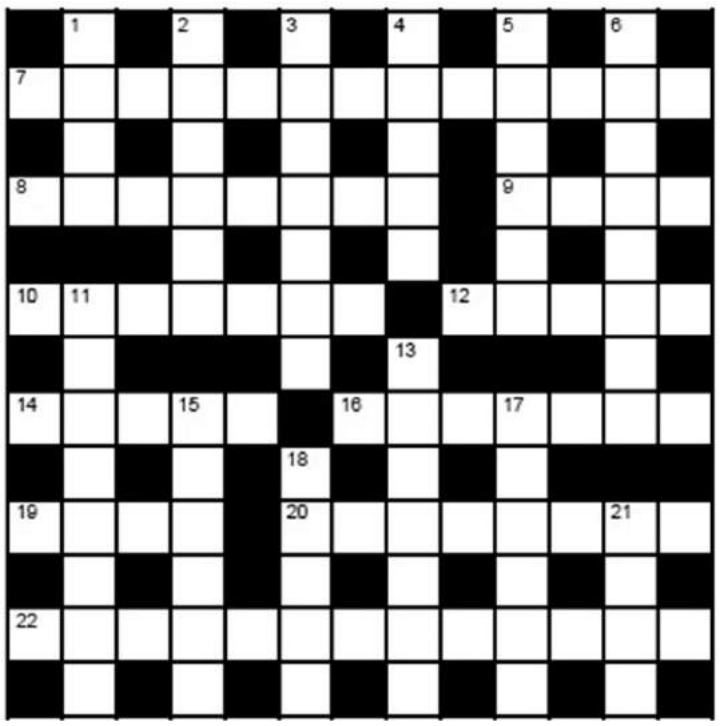
Week 47.2018



Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Tinsel. 8. Torpor. 9. Dear. 10. Converse. 11. Archery. 13. Sixty. 15. Jumbo. 17. Utility. 20. Pratfall. 21. Clap. 22. Apiary. 23. Tricky.

Down: 1. Linear. 2. Tsar. 3. Placard. 4. Stint. 5. Free will. 6. Cosset. 12. Habitual. 14. Athlete. 16. Unripe. 18. Thanks. 19 Calyx. 21. Coil.

ACROSS

7. Painting style or movement originating in France in the 1860s (13)
8. Command or teach (8)
9. Poke, jab (4)
10. Portable gun such as a pistol or rifle (7)
12. Former capital of Japan (5)
14. An important topic or problem for debate or discussion (5)
16. A homeless woman who carries all her possessions around with her (3, 4)
19. Ink stain (4)
20. With no special or distinctive features; normal (8)
22. Basic group of natural objects that includes all living and extinct beasts (6, 7)

DOWN

1. Prayer ending (4)
2. Squirm (6)
3. The tidal mouth of a large river (7)
4. Unclean (5)
5. Irritable and inclined to speak sharply (6)
6. Mixed, miscellaneous (8)
11. Rude, disrespectful (7)
13. Children's playground feature (7)
15. Of or occurring in the previous month (6)
17. Method of payment to correspondents formerly used by newspapers based on the number of lines of copy submitted (6)
18. SI unit of work or energy (5)
21. Underground part of a plant (4)

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MP's 'be diabetes aware' message to constituents

ROSIE Cooper is calling on West Lancs residents to become 'diabetes aware' and take advantage of opportunities to get their diabetes risk factors checked.

People aged 40 to 74 and who haven't had a stroke, or don't already have heart disease, diabetes or kidney disease, are advised to have an NHS Health Check every five years.

Diabetes costs the NHS £10bn a year, which is 10% of the service's budget, while around 5% of people in West Lancashire have diabetes.

The West Lancs MP said: "Many people across the country are not receiving adequate care and are suffering unnecessarily from life-changing, life-limiting and costly complications, such as kidney disease, problems with their feet and sight loss.

"Diabetes is a serious condition but when it is well managed, people living with diabetes can enjoy long and healthy lives.

"Only around a quarter of diabetics locally are receiving all eight of the care processes that are recommended to help ensure that people with diabetes keep in good health and avoid complications. This is less than the average for England.

Rosie Cooper supports Diabetes Awareness.

"Around half of the people with type two diabetes in the area are achieving the three most important treatment targets (for blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure). I have written to West Lancashire CCG to ask how they can improve these figures and better support those living with diabetes."

Constabulary staff awarded 'real living wage' pay rise

MORE than 160 members of staff across Lancashire Constabulary are set to benefit from an increase in the 'real living wage'.

The Living Wage Foundation has announced the 'real living wage' rate as £9 per hour, an increase of 25p.

The hourly rate is independently set annually by the Living Wage Foundation and unlike the 'national living wage', is calculated according to the basic cost of living.

Lancashire Constabulary was accredited as a Real Living Wage Employer earlier this year, joining the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's office which had been accredited since 2014.

Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw said: "The real living wage is something that the force worked hard to implement earlier this year. It's only right that all those who play a role in keeping the public of Lancashire safe are paid a wage that reflects the real cost of living.."

Lancashire's Chief Constable Andy Rhodes commented: "We were accredited as a Real Living Wage Employer earlier this year and we are proud that we are fulfilling our commitments under the scheme and making a real difference to the lives of the people who make such a valuable contribution to the constabulary and to keeping the people of Lancashire safe."

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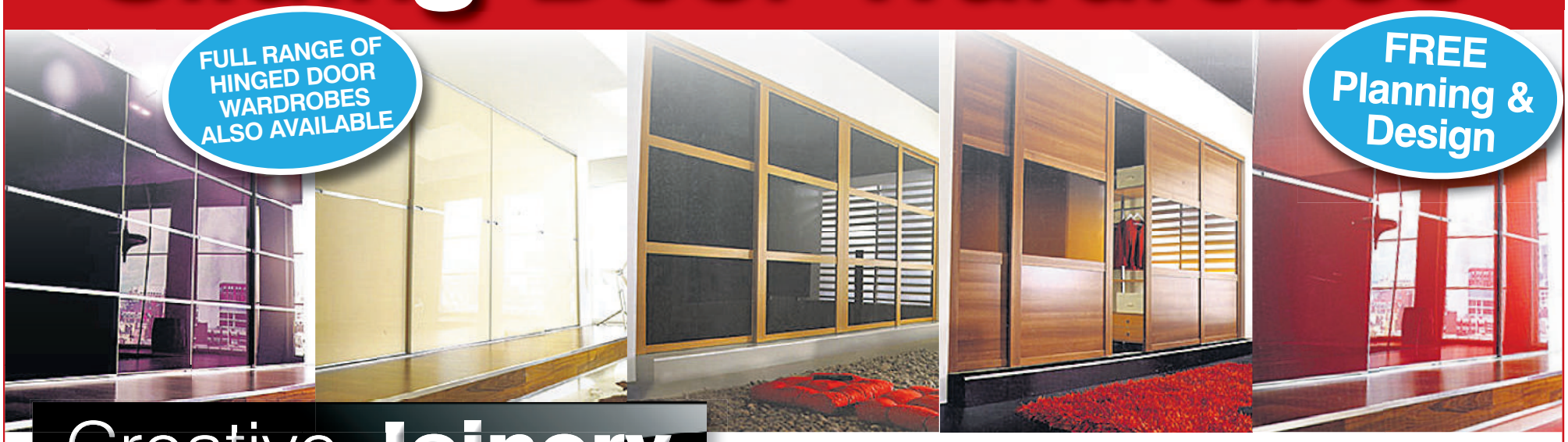

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Former teacher goes back to school with a special 'lesson' about link to First World War

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A TEACHER who taught at a local primary school more than 40 years ago returned to enthrall pupils with the story of her relative who also attended the school and who fought in the Great War.

Margaret Fairclough, formerly Miss Alcock, taught at Bickerstaffe CE Primary School from 1960 to 1972, and is a relative of fallen soldier Private William Pye.

She mesmerised the children when she spoke about his journey from being a pupil at the school until the end of his life, when he served as a soldier in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

Private Pye, who rests in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church in Bickerstaffe, died in battle in Basra on March 9, 1917. He was 21 years old.

Margaret and Dot with Bickerstaffe CE Primary pupils.

Attending the school with Margaret was another of her relatives, Dot Hawkes, secretary of Lathom Park Trust who spoke to the children about the Lathom Remount Depot and the role of horses in the war.

As part of their learning, the school held an Armistice competition and the winners received a book token and a signed copy of War Horse, Michael Morpurgo's novel about a young farm horse sold to the army and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front.

Headteacher, Maggie Teachen, said: "The pupils and staff have thoroughly enjoyed the local focus on World War One learning this year.

"They were very keen to learn about William and his journey, especially as he was a former pupil of our school, which makes their learning more meaningful.

"And they were also intrigued to learn about the horses and the significant role that they played in the war effort."

Pupils combine recycling project with poppy tribute

STAFF, pupils and parents at West Lancs primary school marked the centenary of the end of the First World War with a special recycling project.

Younsters at Tarleton Holy Trinity Primary collected the bottoms of plastic bottles and together with paint donated by a nearby DIY store, these were turned into poppies displayed in two areas, under the Remembrance window at the neighbouring church and in the school's own Reflection Garden.

Staff, pupils and parents, plus members of the public, also gathered around the village's war memorial on Church Road at 11am on Friday, November 9 to remember those who died in all conflicts, sing songs and to lay two wreaths from the school.

Headteacher, Stephen Smith, said: "We have always been great supporters of the British Legion Poppy Appeal and have been rewarded during the last two years by being presented with the Legion's Outstanding Award for contribution to the appeal.

"It's a shame the 100-year anniversary fell on a Sunday, because it would have been amazing to have all 183 children around the war memorial on November 11 but we chose the school day closest to this."

Lathom Park Trust names first Honorary President

THE Trustees of Lathom Park Trust have announced the appointment of their first Honorary President, Howard Whitaker.

The grandson of Lady Helen Whitaker and great-grandson of the 2nd Earl of Lathom, he has been a member of the trust for a number of years, travelling from his home in Cumbria to support its events. He is also a trustee of the Lady Lathom Endowment and Memorial Fund and The Lathom Almshouse Charity.

Paul Kenyon chairman of Lathom Park Trust, said: "I am pleased Howard has accepted this role and I think it's only right, taking into account his family ties with Lathom."

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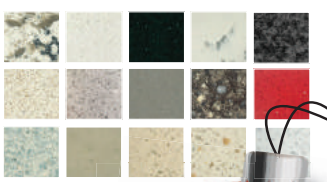

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Win tickets to Calendar Girls The Musical

GARY Barlow and Tim Firth's musical comedy, Calendar Girls The Musical production is touring the UK and Ireland, and will be visiting the Liverpool Empire from November 27 to December 1 and the Champion has five pairs of tickets to give away for the show.

The film is based on the true story, the film and the award-winning play by Tim Firth.

The new tour will star novelist and television presenter Fern Britton, returning to the stage for the first time in 30 years, as Marie.

Lorraine Bruce (Kay Mellor's The Syndicate and theatre credits include Piaf at The Donmar and Vernon God Little at the Young Vic) as Cora, Anna-Jane Casey (Billy Elliot on tour, Stepping Out in London's West End, title role in Annie Get Your Gun at Sheffield Crucible) as Annie.

Sara Crowe (West End roles include Bedroom Farce, The Real Inspector Hound & Black Comedy and Hay Fever) as Ruth, Ruth Madoc (Hi-De-Hi, Little Britain and Gypsy) as Jessie, Rebecca Storm (discovered by Willy Russell and cast as Mrs Johnstone in Blood Brothers, and her handprints are part of the Dublin's Gaiety Theatre Walk of Fame) as Chris and Denise Welch (The Rise and Fall of Little Voice, Coronation Street and Waterloo Road) as Celia.

The critically acclaimed and award-winning production played a six-month London season at the Phoenix Theatre last year, and, before that, this musical comedy played sold-out seasons in Leeds and Manchester.

Tim Firth said: "To be given a chance to revisit Calendar Girls The Musical is a unique opportunity.

"Gary [Barlow] and I have been working away and, as the great Stephen Sondheim said: 'Musical comedies aren't written. They are rewritten'."

Gary Barlow added: "What a phenomenal new cast we have. Tim and I sat in - and indeed played - on the auditions and have been so lucky to have put together such talented ladies."

L to R, Denise Welch, Rebecca Storm, Lorraine Bruce, Fern Britton, Sara Crowe, Anna-Jane Casey and Ruth Madoc in Calendar Girls The Musical. Photo by John Swannell

Tim has won the Olivier Award and UK Theatre Award for Best New Musical, and the British Comedy Awards Best Comedy Film for Calendar Girls.

Calendar Girls The Musical is inspired by the true story of a group of ladies, who decide to appear nude for a Women's Institute calendar in order to raise funds to buy a settee for their local hospital, in memory of one of their husbands, and have to date raised almost £5m for Bloodwise.

Calendar Girls The Musical is directed by Matt Ryan and designed by Robert Jones, with comedy staging by Jos Houben, movement by Lucy Hind and casting by Sarah Bird.

To be in with a chance of winning tickets, answer the following question. Who wrote the play Calendar Girls? Answers to henry.james@champnews.com by 12 noon this Friday. Please supply an address and a daytime phone number. Tickets must be taken on Tuesday, November 27.

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Fri 7th	York for St Nicholas Fayre	£18.50
Sun 9th	Skipton Christmas Market	£16.50
	Lincoln Christmas Market	£22.50
Sat 15th	Bury Market & East Lancs R'way Santa Special	£30.50
Sun 16th	Warners Christmas Lunch @ Alvaston Hall	£37.50
Tue 18th	Deck the Halls at Leighton Hall & Hayes Garden World	£31.50

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SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 10am - 12noon Skelmersdale The Concourse outside Nye Bevan Gym & Pool
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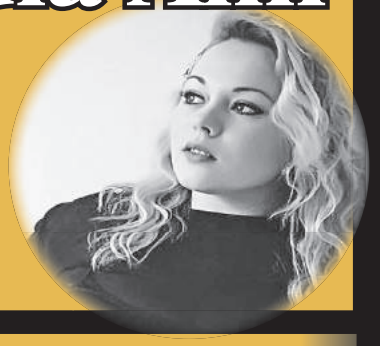
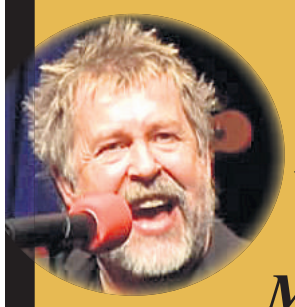


Saturday 1st December



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HOUSE AND HOME

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WALL MIRROR Matt silver coloured frame 54in x 25in £10 01695 576078

CURTAINS Double width .Each curtain fit pole/track 96in Drop 84in. Fully lined pinch pleat heading. Pale Copper colour, satin sheen finish £45 01695 576078

CEILING LIGHT Three downlights on gold coloured fitting cream glass shades Length 28in Drop min/max 19/23in suit Hallway or over table £40 01695 576078

COFFEE TABLE Light Oak Coffee Table.120cm.L 60cm.D 45cm.H. with lower shelf.Excellent condition. £25 07811750732

CURTAINS Pale green/beige pencil pleated, fully lined, each curtain 214 x 275 cm can text photo. Also 7 cushion covers £35 07976031848

CORNER TV Beautiful corner TV unit, medium oak, storage drawer, media shelf, 80cms, as new, can send photos, £65. Matching coffee table 07814480727

COFFEE TABLE Beautiful piece of quality furniture, solid medium oak, 4 drawers and handles 110/60/50cms. Can send photos. Matching TV unit.£130 07814480727

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VINTAGE SUITCASE Dark Brown Leather H10 W16 D5 inches. Dates back to 1940's. £20 / 0151 9321725

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CANE SUITE 2 seater sofa 2 chairs, thick loose cushions. Salmon/Pink, very strong and sturdy, good condition 01704 573645mob07543145602

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HOUSE AND HOME

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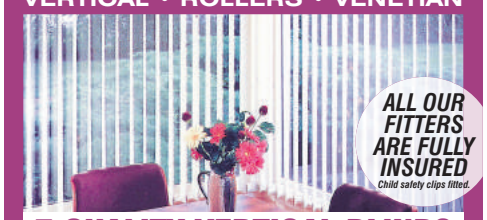
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PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

MD

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it in a public building.

MD

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01704 892191

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Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COBHAM JOAN

Joyce would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind message's of condolence, sympathy cards and donations to Dementia.uk thanks also to Rev. Paul Griffiths and Graham J Clegg Funeral Service for all their help.

PYE WILFRED

Beryle & Family would like to thank all family and friends for the love & kindness shown to them at this sad time and for the donations received in Wilf's memory for Queenscourt Hospice & Galloways Society for the Blind. Thanks also to John Milton for his help before & during the service and to Sally from MLS Independent Funeral Directors for the dignified & caring funeral arrangements.

BURDEKIN TONY

The family of the late Tony Burdekin would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to all the staff that cared for Tony at Abbendon Nursing Home, Rosemary Purcell for her kind ministrations and Derek Crawford and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for their support and dignified funeral arrangements.

To place a family **announcement** please call 01704 392392

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WARD EILEEN

Pamela and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and donations for the British Heart Foundation. Special thanks to Ben and all the staff of Sutton Grange Care Home, Banks for their loving care of mum. Thanks also to Reverend Paul Robinson for his kind words of comfort and ministrations and to Carl, Helen and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for all their help and dignified funeral arrangements.

FISHER ALICE NANETTE

Gillian, Anne-Marie and Peter wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and very kind thoughts of sympathy and donations to Queenscourt Hospice received during their recent sad loss of their Mum. Special thanks to Father Daley. A very special thank you to all the District Nurses for all their care during the last few months, and MLS for their help, support and dignified funeral arrangements.

HADFIELD PETER THOMAS

Beryl and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their attendance at Peter's service, for your kind messages of sympathy and donations received for the North West Air Ambulance in memory of Peter. Special thanks to Reverand Paul Lock for his lovely service and to Margaret and Linda of Skelmersdale Funeral Service for their dignified funeral arrangements

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BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

HORAN HELEN

20th November 1947

Wishing you were here today Mum, even for a while, So I could wish you happy birthday, and see your beautiful smile.

Lots of love
Den
xx

HORAN HELEN

20th November 1947

Heaven holds my Mum, on this her special day, Lord all I ask of you is to give her a bouquet of beautiful scented flowers, and tell her they're from me. Please tell her that I love her for all eternity.

Lots of love
Chris and Ade
xx

Happy birthday Nan,
Love always Joshua
xx

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

HORAN HELEN

20th November 1947

'Ever loving Wife Nell'

Today is your birthday in Heaven above, My blessings I send on a wing of a dove, Not just for today but every day hereof, I think of you always with all of my love

Love from your ever loving Husband
Den
xx

HORAN HELEN

20th November 1947

Your birthday is here but you aren't, I'd send a gift but no I can't, though I'll make a wish upon a star, to carry my love to where you are.

May angels hold you closely, and sing you a happy song, and I will hold you close to me, today and all year long.

Lots of Love Lauren
xx

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

HORAN HELEN

The moment that you left me, my heart split in two, one side filled with memories, the other side died with you.
I often lay awake at night, when the world is fast asleep, and take a walk down memory lane with tears upon my cheek.
Remembering you is easy, I do it every day, but missing you is a heart ache, that never goes away.
I hold you tightly within my heart and there you will remain, you see life has gone on without you, but will never be the same.
Lots of love always,
Michelle, Alex, Paul, Rob, and Gracie
xx

IN MEMORIAM

GRAY JOAN

24th NOVEMBER 2014
MY DEAR WIFE

Although we"re not together
we will never be apart
because you have that special place
right here within my heart
always and forever
love Joe and Family

DEATHS

RICHMOND RICHARD (RICK)

Suddenly on the 6th November 2018 aged 65 years

Beloved Husband of Sue, dearly loved Dad of Phil, Father-in-law to Sarah. Dear Son-in-law of Joyce, Brother to Maureen and David, and Grandad to baby Crystal.
Funeral Service at Tarleton Methodist Church, Church Road Tarleton PR4 6UP, on Tuesday 27th November at 2pm followed by interment at St Mary's Church in Rufford.
Family flowers only please donations if preferred to an animal charity c/o the family.
Enquiries to Neal Buckley, Tarleton Funeral Home, 49 Church Road, Tarleton, PR4 6UQ.
Tel:01772 301700

DEATHS

DODD PHILIP JAMES

We are very sad to announce that Philip Passed away peacefully on the 8th November 2018.

We are holding a service to celebrate his life at Cottage Lane Mission at 1pm, followed by a short funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Thursday 29th November 2018 at 2.30pm. Please wear bright colours, no black if possible. Refreshments afterwards at Master McGraths, Scarisbrick. Family flowers only please, however donations if desired are being collected on the day in fond memory of Philip for The British Lung Foundation.
Further enquiries to Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton.
01772 811165

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DEATHS

MCMAHON ANGELA MARIA

17th November 2018
Peacefully in hospital
aged 85 years
of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late John, loving Mum of Gary, Sharon and Brian and devoted Nan to all her Grand and Great Granchildren.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 722122/720012

RIGBY KITTY

Passed away peacefully in hospital on 11th November 2018 Aged 88 Years

The dearly loved Sister of Bill and John and Sister-in-law to Phyllis and Jean. A much loved Auntie and Great Auntie. Kitty will be missed by all who knew her. Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Monday 26th November at 1pm. Family flowers only, however donations if desired are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice.

Further enquiries to Newland & Wilkinson, Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton. PR4 6RJ.
Telephone 01772 811165

DEATHS

MURRAY MARY (MAY)

12th November 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family
aged 77 years

Much loved Mum, Grandma, Partner and Auntie, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Funersal service will take place at St Richards Church on Friday 23rd November at 10am followed by interment at St Pauls Churchyard.
All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel:01695 559868

DUNCAN (NEE SINGLETON) RUBY

Passed away suddenly at home on 10th November aged 95 years

Will be sadly missed by her Daughter Joan and all her loving family and friends. Funeral service to be held on Thursday 29th November 2018 at St Thomas' Church, Lydiate at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Southport Crematorium at 2.40pm.
Close family flowers only please but donations, if desired, will be gratefully received by St Thomas' Church. Further enquiries and donations c/o Craven Funeral Directors, 44 Liverpool Road, Lydiate, L31 2LZ.
Tel: 0151 531 7890

DEATHS

BIBBY BERNARD KEITH

10th November 2018
Peacefully in Birch Green Care Home
aged 82 years
Formerly of Garstang

Bernard was the 2nd of seven sons and will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service will take place today Wednesday 21st November at 2.30pm at West Lancashire Crematorium.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane
Tel: 01695 559868

SILCOCK PAUL

10th November 2018

Beloved Father of Andrew and Joanne. Grandfather of Morgan, Imani, Arlo, Aoife and Niamh. Father in law of Shauna and Josh. Brother of Linda, Helen and Diane.
Funeral service to take place at Preston Crematorium.
Family flowers only.
All enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare
Tel:01772 729057

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DEATHS

ANDERSON GEORGE MALCOLM DAVID

November 9th, 2018
Aged 91 years

Will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 22nd November at 3.20pm. Family flowers only please. Donations to Queenscourt Hospice c/o Broadbent & Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 4AG.
Tel 01704 550055.

To place a family **announcement** please call one of our team on **01704 392392** or visit **champnews.com**

DEATHS

WHITE MARY LOU

On 6th November 2016
Suddenly but peacefully at home
Aged 68 years
R.I.P.

Loving Daughter of the late Sybil, dearly loved Sister of Edmund, dear Sister law of Linda, and will be sadly missed by all her many friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wednesday 28th November at 2.30pm.
No flowers by request, donations if so desired for Childline. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport PR9 9TG.
Tel: 01704 214118.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

The Secretary of State gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of a network of unnamed footpaths which lie to the west of Northway and to the east and south of Ingram including an irregular shaped area of the unnamed access road leading to the Pool, Library and Arts Centre and an irregular shaped area of highway which lies north west of the Central Library at Skelmersdale, in the Borough of West Lancashire.

If made, the Order would authorise the stopping up only to enable development to be carried out should planning permission be granted by West Lancashire Borough Council. The Secretary of State gives notice of the draft Order under Section 253 (1) of the 1990 Act.

Copies of the draft Order and relevant plan will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at West Lancashire Borough Council, Customer Service Point (CSP), Unit 142, Concourse, Skelmersdale WN8 6LN in the 28 days commencing on 21 November 2018, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the address stated below quoting NATTRAN/NW/S247/3497.

Any person may object to the making of the proposed order by stating their reasons in writing to the Secretary of State at nationalcasework@dft.gov.uk or National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR, quoting the above reference. Objections should be received by midnight on **19 December 2018**. You are advised that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant/agent to enable your objection to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your objection.

D Hoggins, Casework Manager

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0675/FUL First floor side extension and general remodeling at 31A Tower Hill, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Listed Building.
2018/1113/FUL Removal of Condition No. 5 imposed on planning permission 2017/0600/FUL relating to the implementation of a programme of archaeolgical work at Chapel Of St John The Divine, Lathom House, Lathom Park, Lathom.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/1132/FUL Addition of aluminium coping system to existing parapet walls at 33 Granville Park West, Aughton.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/1133/FUL Demolition of existing single and two-storey extension to rear of dwelling and garage, and alteration and extension to dwelling to create two dwellings and alteration and extension to outbuilding to create a single dwelling at 7 Church Road, Rufford.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/1158/FUL Variation of Condition No. 1 of planning permission 2016/0040/FUL to vary the location, site and cross section plans submitted with the original application to regularise the as built land levels, landscaping and development layout of the nine hole short course. Replacement of plan reference 1115.11 received by the Local Planning Authority on 13th July 2011 with plan references 1115.11 Rev B and 1115.21. Replacement of plan reference 1115.15 received by the Local Planning Authority on 13th July 2011 with plan reference 1115.X6 cross sections. Approval of new plan reference 1115.27 Par 3 Landscaping. All other plans to remain as per the decision notice at Beacon Park Golf Centre, Beacon Lane, Dalton.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981 applies.
2018/1164/FUL Remodeling of driving range at Beacon Park Golf Centre to create a Foot Golf course, remodeling of 1st hole green, 2nd hole tees, creation of mounding and re-profiling of ground adjacent to 1st fairway, remodeling of ground between 1st and 18th holes and associated landscaping at Beacon Park Golf Centre, Beacon Lane, Dalton.
2018/1174/FUL Installation of a prefabricated modular building adjacent to the front section of the current visitor centre to provide toilets, community space, cafe and kitchen. Installation of a green roof on the front section of the current visitor centre. Creation of an overflow parking area at Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, Holmeswood Road, Rufford.1366
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information, including your name and address, you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 21st November 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT1021

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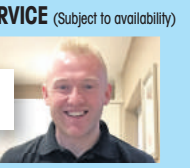

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The latest SEAT model is a bit smaller than the Mii hatchback

The Classic Motor Show is brilliant but it's a long walk

MY FEET have, I reckon, just about recovered. The one thing that always sticks with me after seeing the 3,000 cars at the Classic Motor Show every November are the blister plasters. It's a brilliant show, but it takes a *lot* of walking to get around it all.

Happily, the boffins at SEAT have been working on a solution – which is weird, because I've been to Barcelona's classic show and it's nowhere near as big as ours! Turn up to a big car event – or indeed, any supermarket, school fun day or any other outing that involves a long walk at the end – in one of their cars and you'll be able to turn to their, ahem, 'electric urban mobility solution.' That's how SEAT's top team of engineers have put it, but in Layman's English it's a folding electric scooter. Which, as far as I can make out, brilliantly answers a question that nobody's ever asked.

The eXS KickScooter, to give SEAT's newest offering its full name, responds to what the Spanish carmaker reckons is a growing demand for people, fed up with being stuck in traffic jams, to ditch their Ibizas and Atecas and do the last mile of their journey on something else. Anything else. Yet surely, if it's a single, measly mile, you'd just walk? Aha! SEAT have already thought of that. The KickScooter can, on a full charge, actually crack closer to 25 miles, but if you were going to do the equivalent of Southport to Crosby and back, there's no way you're going to do it on anything that looks as ridiculous as this.

You'd either do it in the car or, if traffic really were that consistently awful, on any number of Yamaha, Honda, Suzuki or Piaggio scooters designed from the off with that exact task in mind. Even if you lived in the busiest bits of central London – which you don't, because you're a *Champion* reader – you'd give all this electric folding scooter stuff a steer, park up at Cockfosters and hop on the Piccadilly Line.

Happily, I realised there is a scenario where the eXS KickScooter makes perfect sense. I was in Edinburgh the other day and needed to get from one part of Scotland's capital city to the other, minus the use of a car, and it was a long walk from the nearest bus stop. Here I'd have killed to get my hands on a SEAT scooter – because I'd left my car 300 miles away and got the train up instead.

So, it's a motoring spin-off that only works if you *don't* have a car. I'll stick to the Leon Cupra and the occasional stroll, if you don't mind…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly.

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Burscough's Chad Whyte challenges for the header

Green still looking for first win after Linnets undone by quick-fire goals

Barnoldswick Town 2
Burscough 0

BURSCOUGH were undone by two goals scored in less than two minutes at Barnoldswick Town.

The Linnets' highly placed opposition entered the game having won their last three games and proved the tough obstacle they threatened to be on paper.

Both teams struggled to get any passing rhythm going in the early stages and Burscough first went close after ten minutes but home goalkeeper Ryan Livesey ended their hopes after a scramble in the home goalmouth.

On 24 minutes Burscough worried the hosts again, this time Livesey came to the rescue again, blocking a shot from Chad Whyte.

Burscough were hit with a double injury blow in 33 and 36 minutes, Jordan Casey went off with a head injury and was replaced by Terry Cummings and Peter Henerty made way for Don Eumessi.

Barnoldswick missed a good chance in the 37th minute when Shaun Airey headed wide at the far post when he was allowed too much space.

When the whistle went for half-time it would give Burscough chance to settle down their enforced changes, but the blank scoreline was probably a fair summing up of things.

Straight after the break Burscough almost went in front but keeper Livesey frustrated them again.

On 48 minutes Burscough conceded from a dead ball, Zack Dale swung in a corner and Marc Young headed home the opener.

When the hosts made it 2-0 a couple of minutes later it left Terry Green's team a mountain to climb.

Dale made ground down Barnoldswick's left wing and cut inside before launching a cracking shot into the top corner of the Linnets goal.

For a spell Barnoldswick pressured and it could easily have been 3-0, but Nathan Emery's free-kick crashed into the Burscough defensive wall.

Dale was causing Burscough a hat full of problems and on 67 minutes he set up Jack Coop but his shot was finger-tipped wide by Linnets goalkeeper Max Povey.

With quarter of an hour to go the home team twice put shots wide.

As the last embers of the game flickered out Dale brought another good save out of Povey.

Burscough will have better days, the first-half injuries didn't help them, but Barnoldswick are a team in their best form at present and Burscough have a free week to lick their wounds and regroup, manager Terry Green having a clear week to organise them in training.

New Skem manager suffers nightmare start after Mossley hit five in thrashing

By **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skelmersdale United 1
Mossley 5

NEW boss Paul McNally had a tough start to life in the managerial hot seat after Skelmersdale United were hit for five by Mossley.

To be fair to McNally, who used to manage at nearby Litherland Remyca, he only met many of his players for the first time in the dressing room before the game against the play-off chasing opponents from Tameside.

It also wouldn't have helped his situation that regular left-back Jack Fleming has left the club and joined Clitheroe.

However, he did have captain Phil Mooney back from suspension and forward Davy Moore was back from a period away from the club.

Mossley have a powerful forward line and they soon got into action, Szymon Czubik was put in by Aaron Dwyer but Skem right-back Charlie Duke put an end to that move.

Dwyer was again at the heart of Mossley's next move in the fifth minute, Ben Halfacre won the ball from a Skelmersdale player in the middle of the park and sent it right to Dwyer. His cross into the goalmouth landed neatly onto the head of Czubik and it was 1-0.

Skelmersdale had arguably been caught cold but gradually they started to get into the game and for the next 20 minutes they probably had more of the possession, however they didn't worry Mossley a great deal and the best attempt was a shot from Alex Griffiths that went wide.

Mossley won a corner on the left in the 25th minute and Skelmersdale didn't clear the ball, eventually via a back heel and a header the ball was declared as having crossed the line by the assistant referee and it was 2-0.

Paul McNally during his time at Litherland Remyca

Skelmersdale went back to having more of the possession and this time they did generate a couple of openings.

In the 31st minute Moore held the ball up well and slipped Will Dunne in down the inside left channel and many would say he should have shot at goal, but he elected to play the ball across the face of goal and it was cleared.

Dunne got the second chance in the 37th minute. The ball was played down the right and a defender missed it, Dunne ran on behind the Mossley defence and only a terrific save at his feet by away goalkeeper Ben Purdham kept him out.

If either chance had been converted it was game on for Skem.

Straight after the interval from a free-kick Mooney went close to scoring but was given offside.

Then disaster struck for Skem, they conceded twice in five minutes and really all hope was gone.

On 48 minutes a poor header by defender James Webb put the ball wide to Dwyer, he beat another defender and found Halfacre, who skilfully turned and fired home from about four yards.

On 53 minutes a cross went deep to the right-hand far post, Dwyer pulled the ball back across goal and Halfacre crashed the ball into the net again from inside the six yard box. He had achieved a hat-trick with a total yardage from goal of less than ten yards out!

Paul McNally brought substitute Luke Duffy on for Skem and he made a difference with his none stop style, but still only an excellent diving save from Skem goalkeeper Terry Smith prevented a fifth goal as Dwyer broke clear.

In the 69th minute Skelmersdale pulled a goal back and it was good goal. Duffy chested the ball down in the centre circle advanced and slipped a defence splitting pass through the Mossley backline, Sean Yeldrem ran onto it rounded keeper Purdham and slotted the ball into the net.

In the 79th minute Moore put a cross into the box and a series of shots were blocked by the Mossley defence.

Six minutes from the end Skelmersdale were reduced to ten men, Mossley left-back Dieter Downey set off on a run down the right and in front of the dug outs he was blocked by Mooney who had been booked in the first-half.

Referee Richard Holmes brandished a second yellow card then a red one, it was Mooney's second dismissal in two weeks.

From the free kick the ball was lofted into the penalty area where a Skem defender headed it across his own goal, giving Godwin Abadaki the simple job of making it 5-1.

It was a bad afternoon for Skem and Paul McNally will know what he has taken on, if he can take Skelmersdale out of the relegation zone he will have done a great job especially on the alleged low budget available at Skem.

It is a far from impossible ask, they are only four points from safety, they are a hardworking, spirited bunch of young players, but they will have to improve a lot on the showing against Mossley.

Burscough look for second win over Padiham

BOTH Burscough and Skelmersdale United are in the unusual position of both managers in search of their first league win.

Paul McNally only took over at Skelmersdale at the end of last week so really there is no pressure on him at this stage, but the pressure must be mounting on Burscough manager Terry Green.

Since he took over from Dave Sutton at Victoria Park, the Linnets have played four league games from which they have drawn two and lost two, this after Sutton had a superb 3-2 success at promotion chasing Runcorn Town in his last game before standing down.

Burscough have a good opportunity to send Green home a happy man on Saturday as they take on Padiham (3pm) in the first of two back to back home league games. They follow up by entertaining Silsden on Tuesday, November 27 kick (7.45pm).

Back in September, Burscough achieved a good 3-2 victory at Padiham so will be going into Saturday's match looking to clock up their first double of the season and as they now have Terry Cummings back from injury, they will pose a much stronger threat up front than they have in recent weeks.

Skelmersdale face a long trip down the M6 to Market Drayton Town on Saturday, the two teams meeting for the first ever time in the Evo-Stik League.

The Shropshire based club are only six places ahead of Skem in the table but have only lost once at home this season, however Skem have picked five of their seven points on the road and new manager Paul McNally will have had a week to make his influence count.

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